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Fifty Golden Years

1903 - 1953

A brief history of
the Order of St. Benedict
in the Abbey Nullius of St. Peter
Muenster, Saskatchewan
by
The Very Rev. Peter Wiedenhofer, O.S.B.

Imprimatur:
Rt. Rev. Severin Gerken, O.S.B.
St. Peter's Abbey,
Muenster, Sask.

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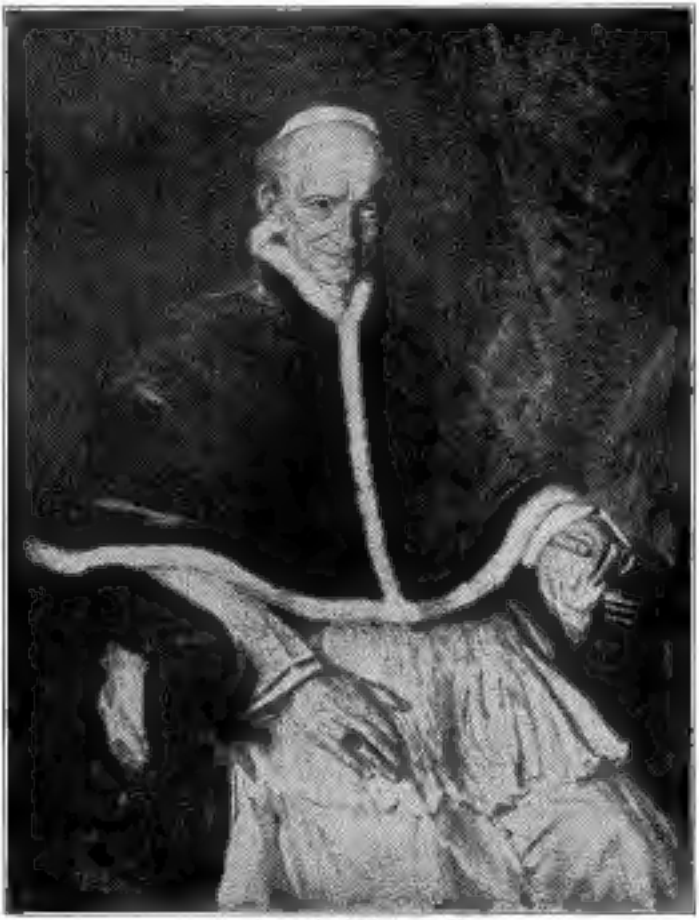
"Protect, O Lord, the Vicar of Thy Son on earth together with the bishops, priests, religious and all Thy faithful. Vouchsafe that all, both priests and laity, the young, the mature, and the old, united intimately in thought and affection, may become as a solid rock, against which the fury of Thy enemies will break in vain.

"May Thy grace enkindle in all men love for the many unfortunate people, whom poverty and misery reduce to a condition of life unworthy of human beings.

"Arouse in the hearts of those who call Thee Father a hunger and thirst for social justice and for fraternal charity in deeds and in truth.

"Grant, O Lord, peace in our days, peace to families, peace to our country, peace among nations." Amen.

The 1950 Holy Year Prayer of Pius XII.



THE REIGNING POPE LEO XIII

During his pontificate St. Peter's Colony was begun and the first Benedictine monastery in Canada founded. The first parish district was named Leofeld (Leo's Field) in his honor. He is remembered as the great benefactor of the Benedictine Order who gave it its first Abbot Primate and founded the international Benedictine College of Sant' Anselmo in Rome.

HIS HOLINESS BLESSED POPE PIUS X

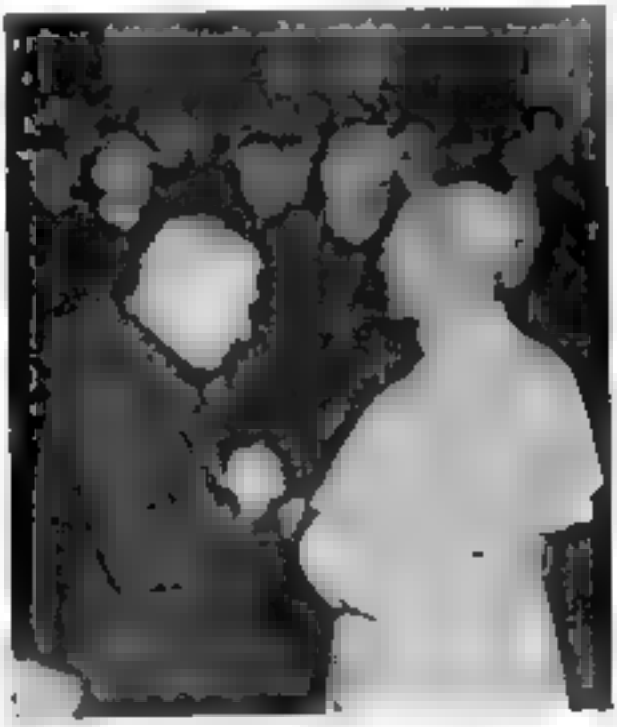
During the pontificate of Blessed Pius X (to be canonized in May, 1954, and then known as Pius X) the little monastery at Muenster was raised to the dignity of an Abbey in 1911. It was the first Benedictine Abbey in Canada, with Abbot Bruno as its first Abbot. It is of unusual interest for the period of history covered by this book that the recognition and encouragement of a canonized Saint has had a great influence on the district and its inhabitants.

HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XV

The successor of Blessed Pius X, Pope Benedict XV, has this important historical connection with St. Peter's Abbey and Colony that during his pontificate the Abbey was raised to an Abbey-Nullius on May 6, 1921, the Abbot receiving episcopal jurisdiction over the Colony. By this act a very unique distinction was conferred. There are very few such ecclesiastical territories in the world. This is the only one in Canada.

THE RIGHT REV. ABBOT GASQUET

The Pope founded the Abbey of San Girolamo in Rome and entrusted to the Benedictines their important studies on the text of the Bible. Shortly his predecessor the privilege was granted of exercising the power of the Abbot Primate in the [illegible] of the Holy monasteries after that of the Pope or the Bishop in [illegible] to name Pius XI has now his blessing to the clergy and people of the Abbacy.



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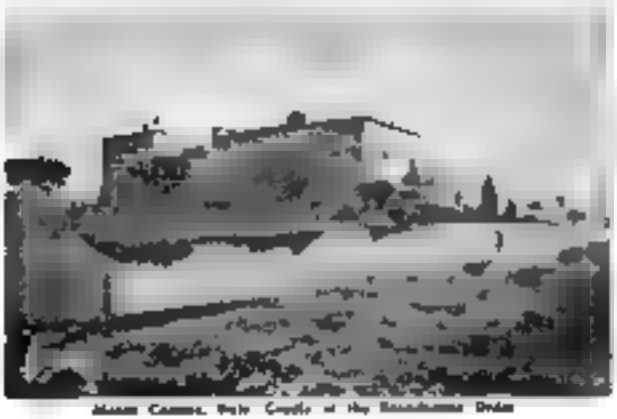
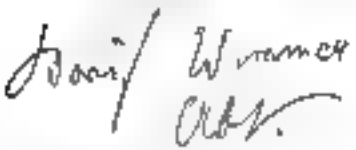
St. Benedict, St. Maurus, St. Placid



Mount Carmel, Twin Cradle of the Benedictine Order

Contents

Foreword
List of Illustrations 9
Come Let Us Praise the Lord
Prior Alfred ... ner Plan
First Parish St. Boniface ...enfeld
St. Peter's Penny and Paper 29
The Order of St. Benedict Interpreted 3
St. Peter's Bote and The Priests Messenger 3
Prior Placid ... Second Prior ... ner Abbot 35
Willibrordus 39
Early Deaths 4
Father John Ridney 4
Abbot Bruno Nardin 4
The Sisters of St. Elizabeth 4
The ...ictine Nuns 5
Abbot Gabriel 5
St. Peter's ...ollege 6
The Abbey Church 6
Achievements of St. Peter's ...ollege 7
The Benedictine Brothers 7
Abbot Severin 8
Silver Jubilee of Canon 8
Abbot Severin Celebrates Silver Jubilee ... Priesthood 9
Mount Carmel 9
Later Deaths 9
Fr. Boniface Pelli 9
Fr. Matthew Steger 9
Fr. ... Olszewski 10
Fr. Frederic Tombrull 10
Fr. Sylvester Seiberumm 10
Fr. Casimir Ciemnicki 10
Fr. Rudolph Palm 10
Fr. Joseph Sittenauer 10
Fr. Joseph Wickel 10
Aurelius Rader 10
Fr. Dunstan Johnston 10
Fr. Lawrence Steinbrecher 10
Distinguished ...ests 10
Attendance ... Absence 10
New ... ers for The Harvest
St. Peter ... Parish 12
St. Ben...dict Parish, St. ...ean Baptiste, ...ndville ...ake and Holy Trinity 12
St. Michael's Parish, Chilworth and St. Manuel Mission ...ake 12
St. Joseph ... Parish, Fields and St. John ... Mission, Willmont 12
Assumption Parish, Maxtsberg and St. Bernard Mission, Pilger 14
St. Anne's Parish, Amalthea and St. Marcin ... Mission 14
Lake Lenore ...ita St. James 16
Watson ... ...gelic ... St. Oswald and LeRoy
St. ...eorge ... Church, Naicam
Bruno ... Peterson
St. Agnes Parish, Peterson
St. Augustine Church, Bruno
St. ...holastica and Conception, Carmel
St. Scholastica
...maculate Conception, Carmel
Parish of St. Gregory
St. Gertrude ... Mission
St. Patrick's Mission
Jubilee of Abbot Severin
Conclusion

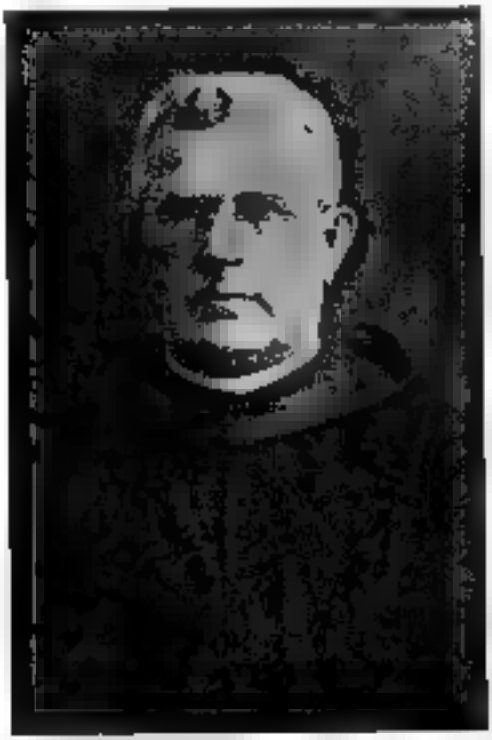


Rt. Rev. Archabbot Boniface Wimmer, O. S. B.
Founder of Benedictine Order in North America.

Rt. Rev. Owen Swallow, D. D. D. Died August 19, 1910 at St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Sask.

Frank Cierz, jr. Jos. Hanzek, Nic. Koch, John Biederbeck, Frank Kreuz, John Duerr, Jacob Zel, Nic. Oberstar and Paul Hilde. October 11 the group arrived at Rosthern and next day with Father Bruno as their guide, obtained teams for the trip to pick them homesteads. In the company of Father Cicero was Carl Nicoll of Sioux Mills, and Noah Bulaty of McLeodville. Into Office homesteaders who visited the region in 1903 were Andrew Lindberg, Gotthard Baumgart, John Brink, Henry John Klassen, Phillip Hoffmann, Christ. Jac. Gerasch, Con Schaefer and Mr. Kalthoff.

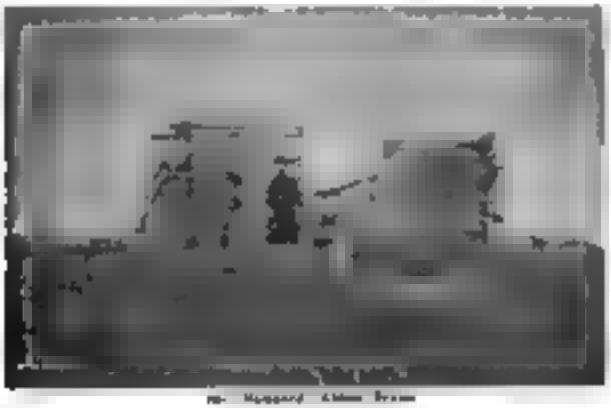
The homeseekers who had picked their claims and filed for thirty-one homesteads returned to Rosthern, rested for a day and with Father Bruno started on the trek for the United States. Upon Mr. Rennerberg asked Father Bruno, "If we return in spring to take possession of our homesteads will we then have priests to take care of our spiritual needs?" Father Bruno replied, "As soon as the settlers arrive we will also be here." Mr. Rennerberg in a letter reports concerning, "Thanks be to God the Fathers have kept their word." Mr. Rennerberg in describing the experiences of his first trip to Canada in 1903 stressed the paternal solicitude of Father Bruno. When they spent the night of October [illegible] at the house of a certain Mr. Vezina, a French rancher, Father Bruno before retiring, saw to it that every man was well covered by blankets, so none of them would catch a cold, for during the night a light snow fell and the air was chilly.

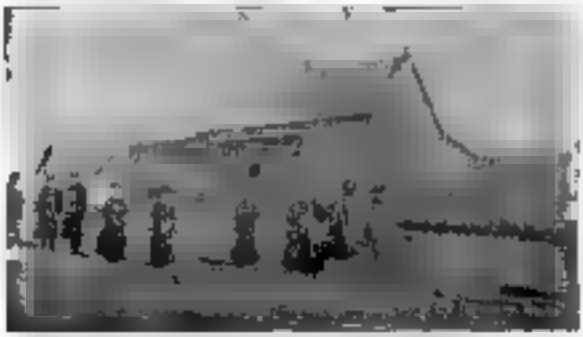


Prior Alfred Meyer, O. S. B. First superior of the Benedictine community in Saskatchewan, 1903 - 1906

Rt. Rev. Oswald Moosmueller, O. S. B. Founder and First Superior of the Benedictine Community, Chicago, Wilmington, Ill.

Rt. Rev. A. Pascal, O.M.I., first Bishop of Prince Albert

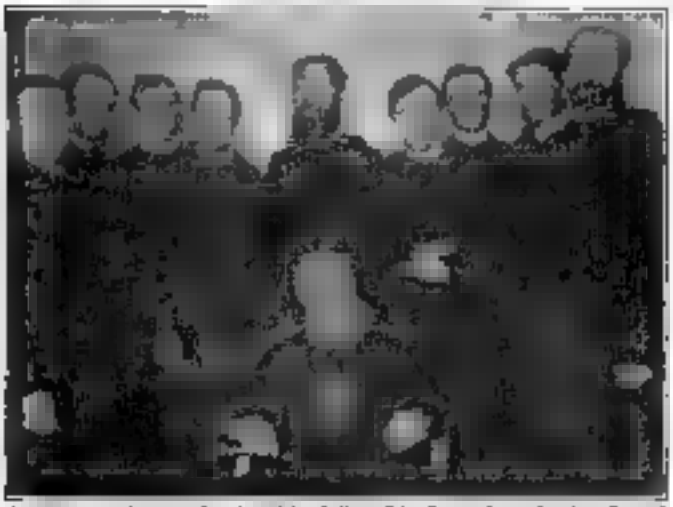




Second Monastery, later refectory and kitchen.

Fr. Cochois and Bro. Alexius going on a missionary trek.

Prior Brown, Abbot Peter St. John's Abbot Charles, St. Leo, Florida, visits on visitation.



Rev. Matthias, Osmond, Benedict, John Bellew, Peter Brown, Peter Benedict Bernard, Boniface, Bishop Power, seated.

[illegible]

Besides Father [illegible] other [illegible] St. [illegible] Adam [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

St. Boniface Church and Rectory

St. Boniface Church and School, Lorfeld

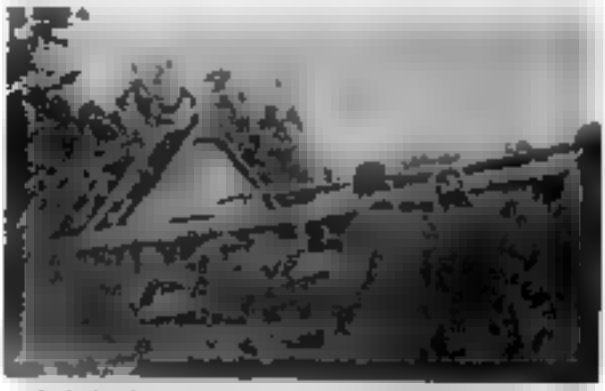
The First Parish

St. Boniface - Leofeld

Dr. Edmund Gallemann, C. M. G. First Pastor of the first Parish in the Colony
St. Stanislaus, Leesfield.

Gateway to the Colony.
The view marks the location of Old Lochiel and Cudmath.

St. Matthew School, under construction, 1914.

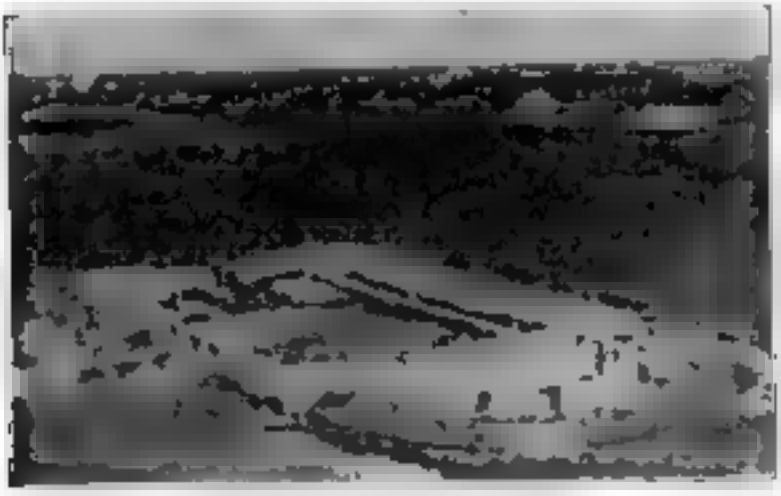


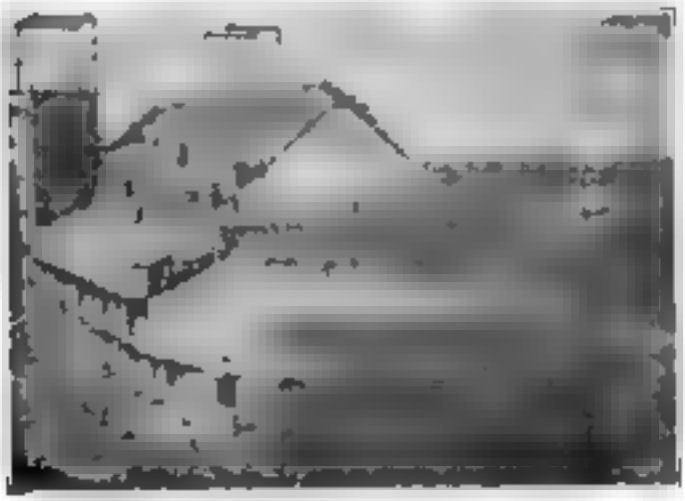
A sketch with the dimensions of a medium-sized sandstone
[illegible] that have stayed on old Lookout

A [illegible] which lived in 1900 in Lichfield. Left to right:
Peggy Averill, Hank Averill, Mike Galvaberg, Peter Bate, Pedro Mitchell.

[illegible]

[illegible]





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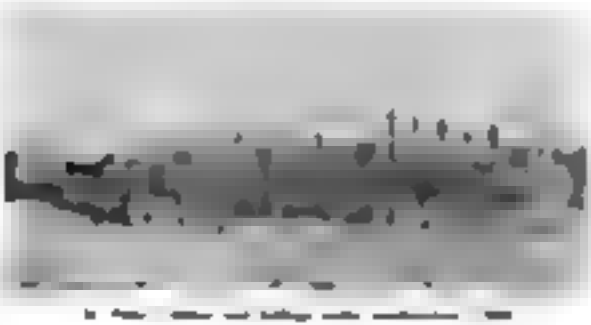
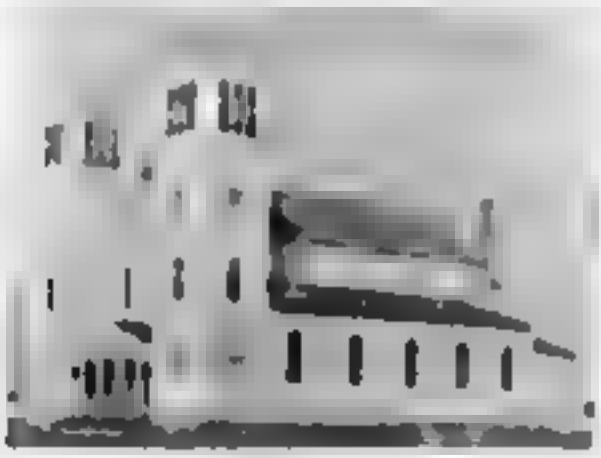
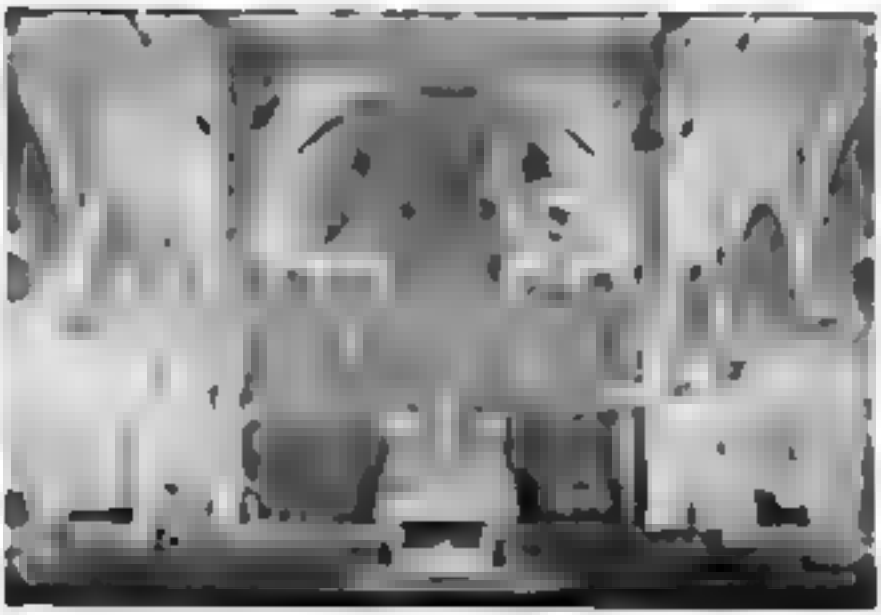
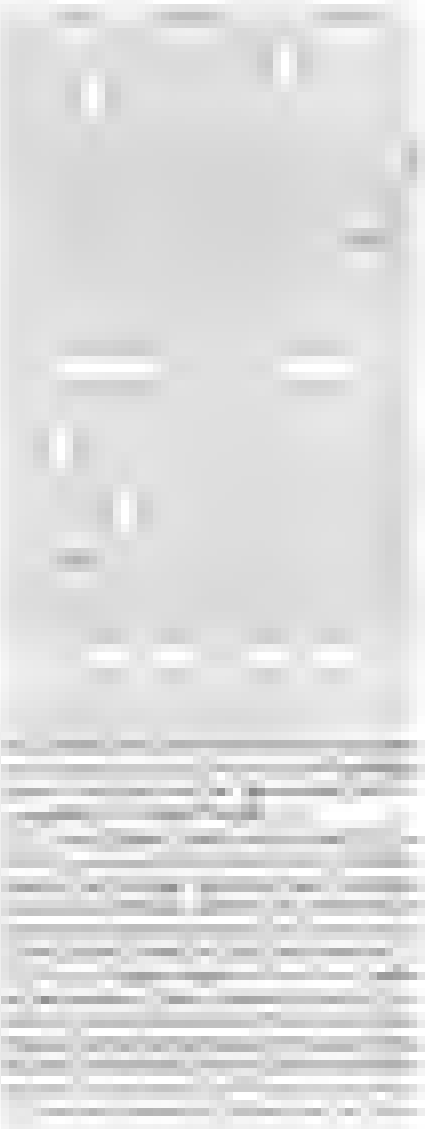
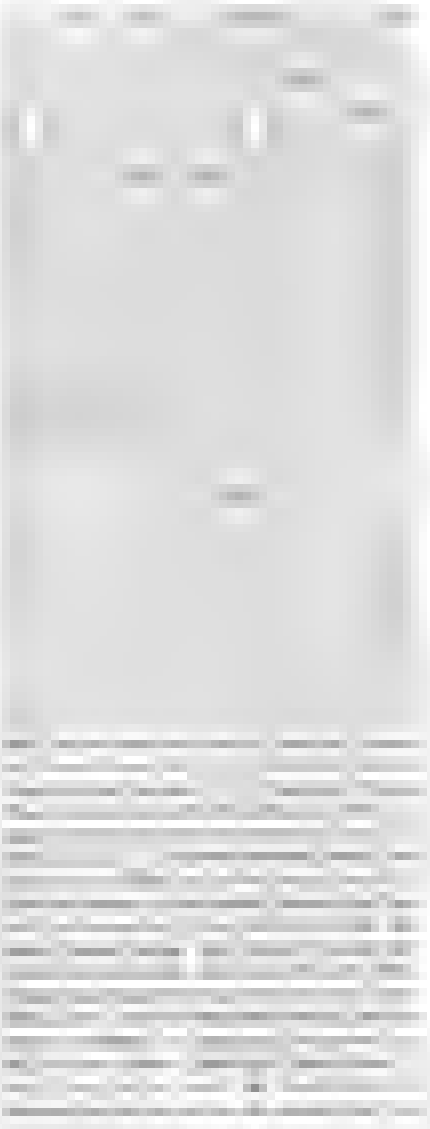




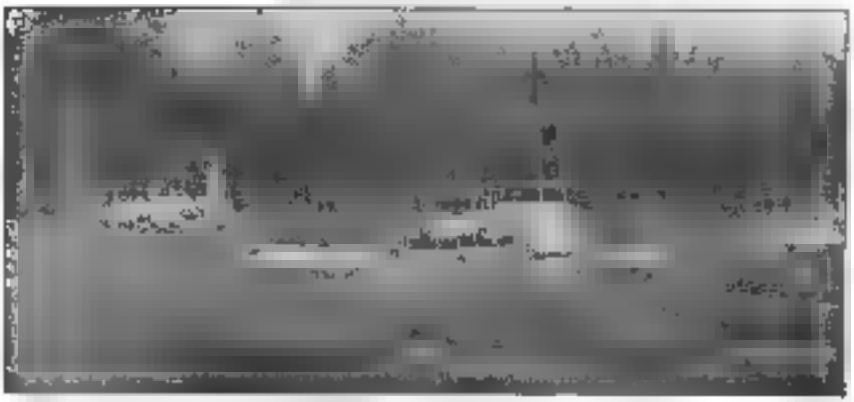




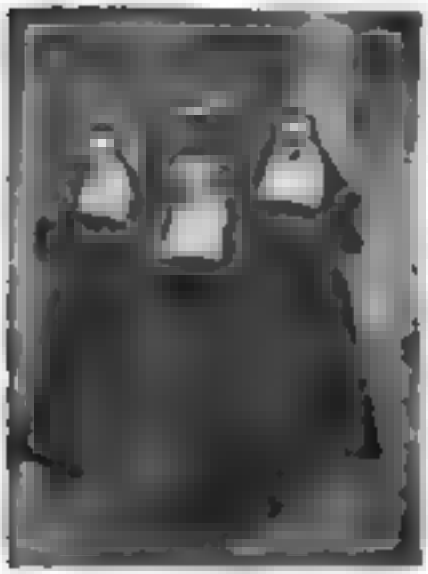


pamphlets and circulars During the year 19 to 19 the amounted to 00 gro To safeguard our Catholic ...ools the volksverein founded the Catholic Teachers Agency and entrusted Mr ...nigacken of Bruno with its conduct It was the Volksverein which in the winter of 0 organized and gave life to the Catholic School Trustees Association ... due to the influence of the Volksver that number of sch olic inspectors of schools were named to the Regina Government and that difficulties regarding school matter were amicably settled Members of the volksverein Mr El Theires and Mr A. Huck sat in the legislature in Regin. and a member of the Volksverein Dr ...el Tesch for many ... held a position as a minister in the cabinet

After the last KatVolkstag July 9 held in Regina it gradually died out entirely The second World War shut out all immigration from Germany and Austria and the younger generation grew up to ... but a Volksverein Steps were taken in 9 and 9 to wind up the affairs of the defunct Verein by its last ...etual Secretary John ...chleibs of Viking in order to hand over the little money left in the treasury to the Catholic Immigration Society for Western Canada



St. Peter's Abbey Cemetery



ne and evening of the morning,
ary 8. After a Requiem High Mas

Archbishop Latrobe, Pennsylvania H

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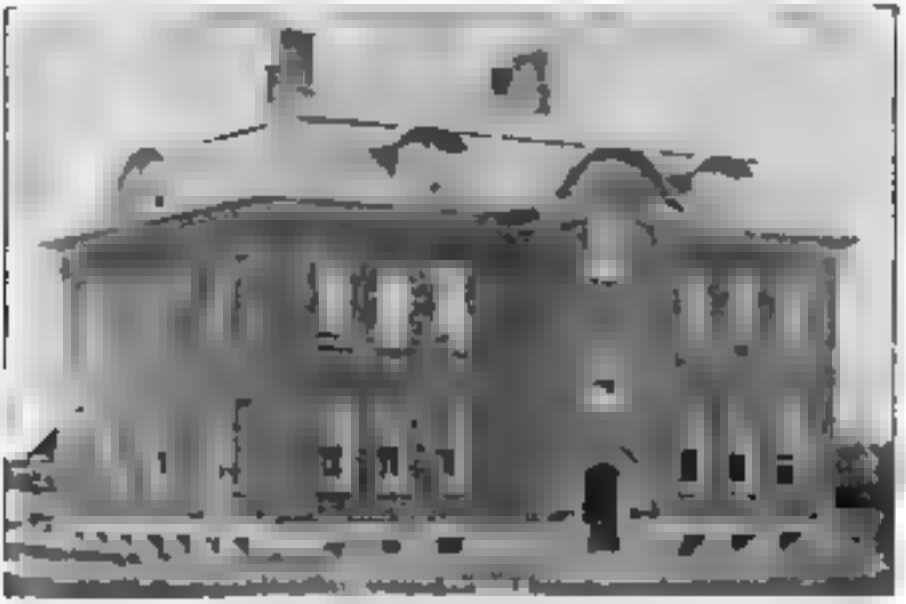

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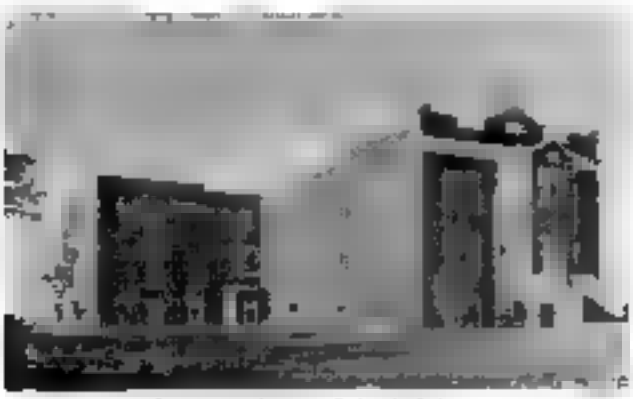
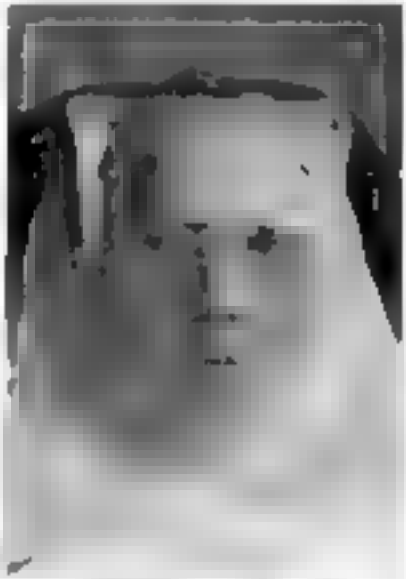
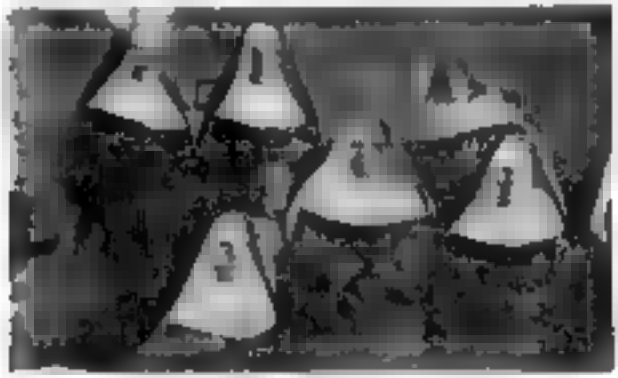
1946, and his golden jubilee of priesthood July 2



St. Hedwig's Hospital, Coolgardie, South

Chapel of St. Elizabeth's Hospital

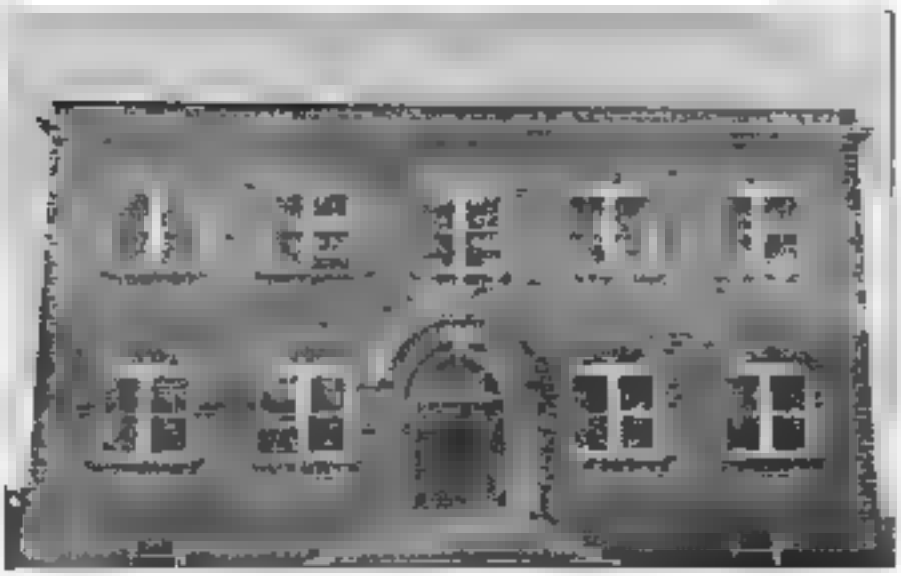




First Windows Taken in stores in St. Peter's Colony

New Brethren Convent and School, Aberdeen, and St. Henry's School.
Little log parish church in center foreground.

The Ursuline Nuns



Parish School at Ross

though it was understood

Rev. Jas, O.M.I. Vicar General of the

about 450 are attending the grade schools. The parents in these school districts are indeed fortunate to be able to entrust their children to the Sisters whose sole aim is to instill in the minds and hearts of their pupils the appreciation of true values which make for permanent happiness. Through the pupils this influence for good reaches to the families and to the community.

More interesting is the work done by the Sisters through the academy that adjoins each for the Catholic girl. Owing to limited accommodations St. [illegible] has been able to find room for about two-thirds of the students it has on its waiting list each fall. To date approximately 700 have been enrolled in its classes. Former academy girls are found in every walks of life, from teachers, nurses and stenographers, to women in executive positions, to the armed services and missionary workers in foreign lands. However, the majority of the girls become mothers of families and it is here that the most good is brought. The lessons learned in academic life are transmitted to a succeeding generation.

St. Brendan's Academy through the Alumnae Association has joined the Canadian Federation of Convent Alumnae (C.F.C.A. and thus enjoys the benefits of united action in furthering the ideals of Catholic Convent Education.

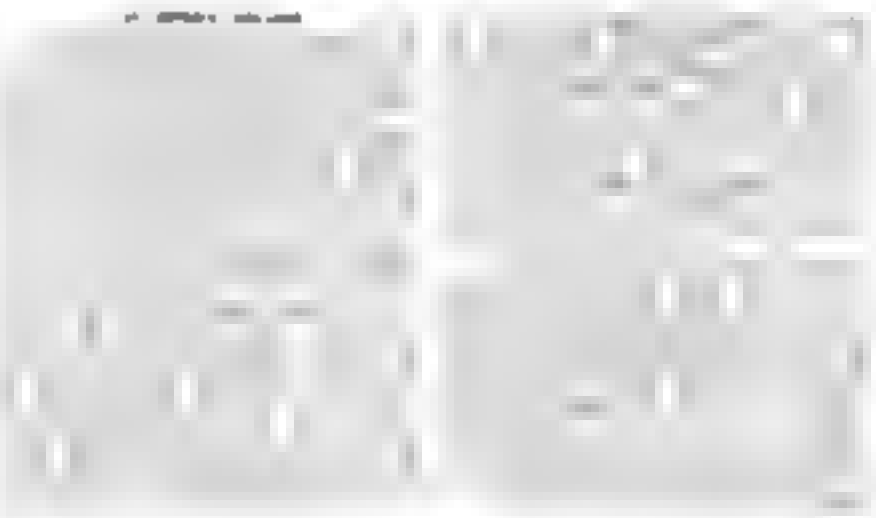
Catholic parents of the states Nullius thank God have the privilege of seeing their young people attend Catholic institutions. With this in view the Grenfell Convent is planning an extension to include larger classrooms as soon as the chapel, now under construction, is completed.

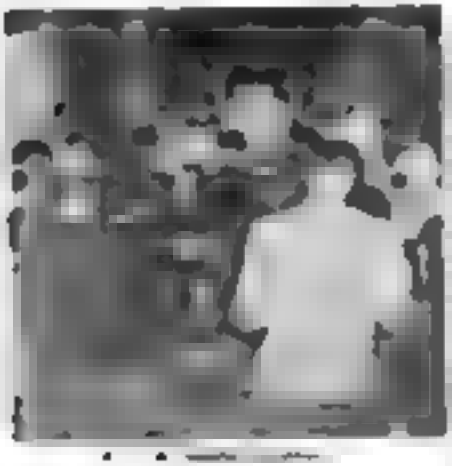
Separate School, Lake Lenore.

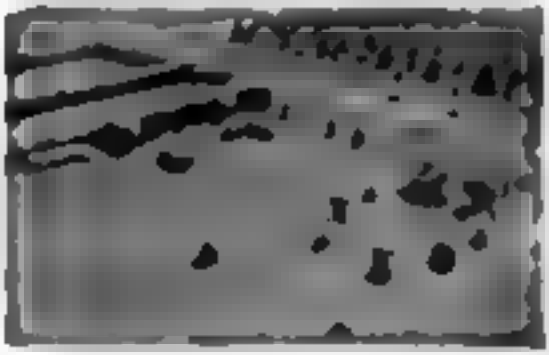
[illegible]

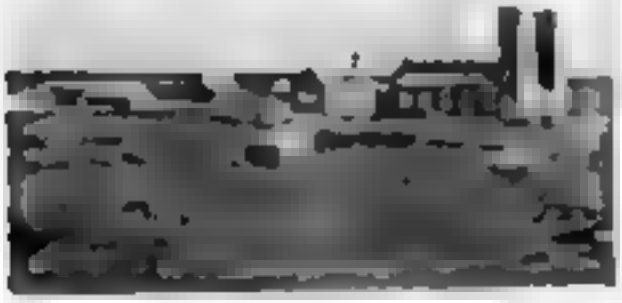
[illegible]

Alhaji Abubakar Ibn. O.B.E

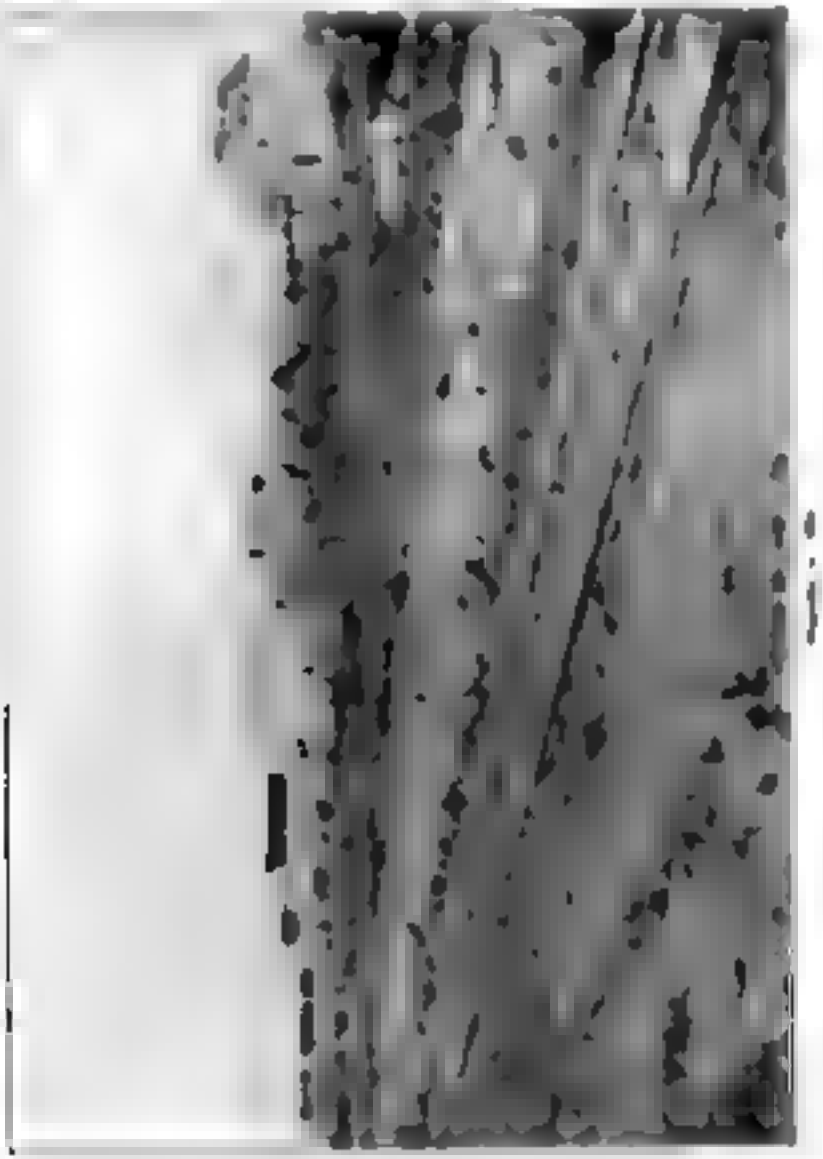


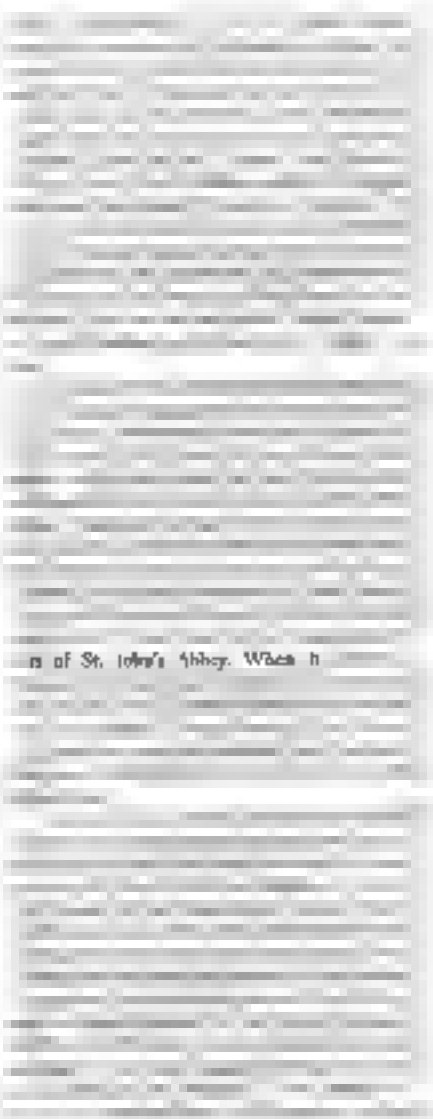






Prince Albert on July 29, 1928, the last day of





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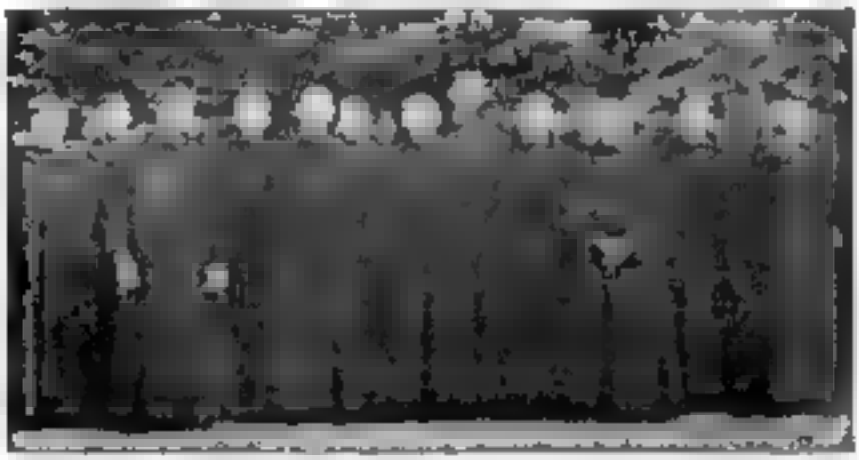

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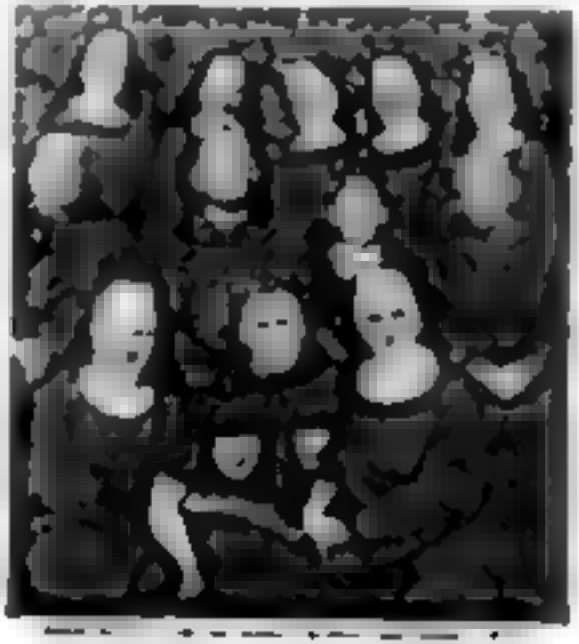
Rt. Rev. Bernard Shelton, O.S.B. Second Superintendent



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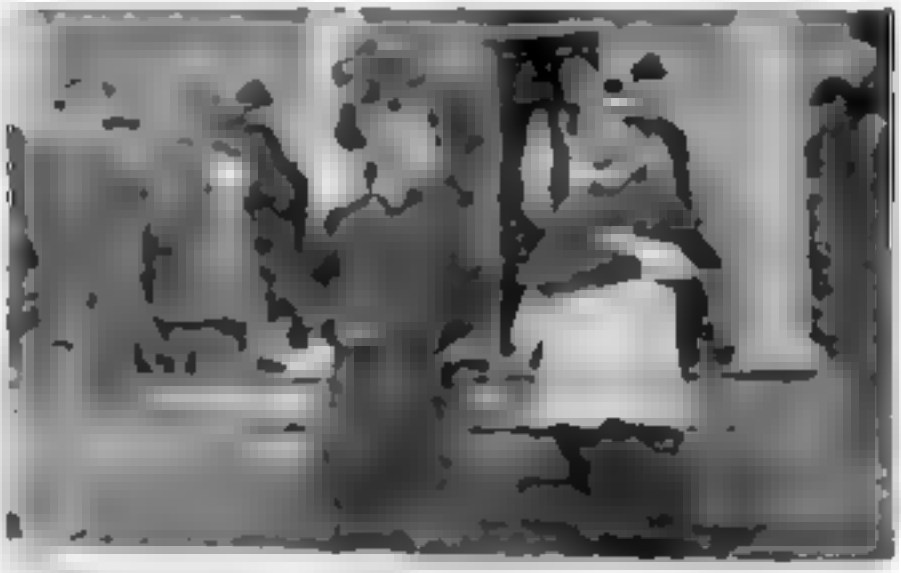

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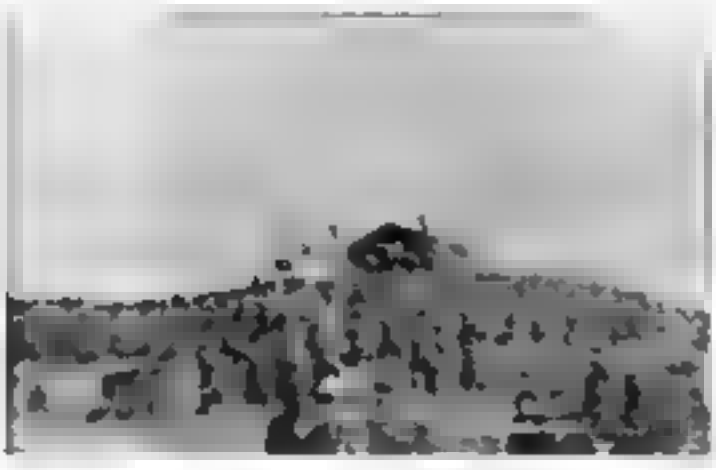

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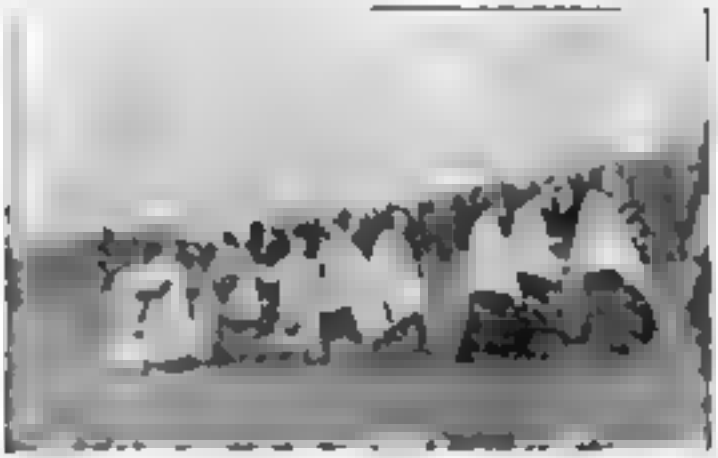

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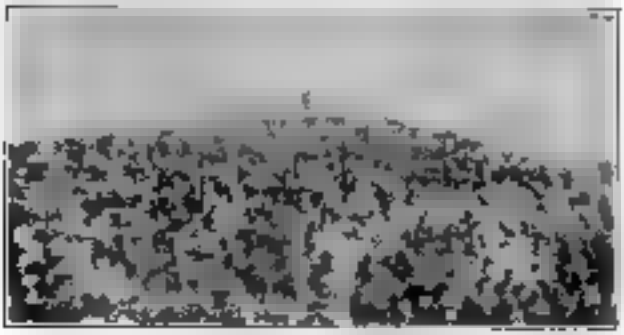
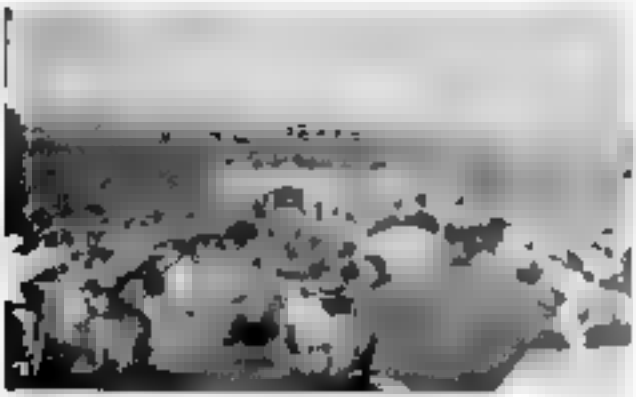
Mount Carmel



Scene Highway at Mt. Gretna



View of Depot from Island

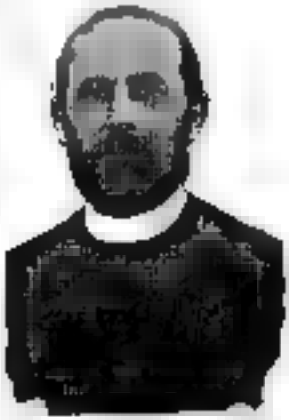
One of the Stations of the cross ascending the hill.

Archbishop Pocock's pilgrimage July 7th 1940 was Bishop Joseph Lopez C.S.B. of Gravelbourg, other Bishops and delegates. The sermon was preached by Abbot Severin Lambert in the sanctuary. The choir from St Peter's Abbey under Fr. Chrysostom Schofield sang at 1939 and 1940 pilgrimages.

The pilgrimages from 1940 to 1957 followed the same general schedule and may not be described in more detail. The number of pilgrims grew each year. A special interest was the eucharistic Knights of Columbus Crusade rally on the Mount September 10, 1948. More than 10,000 pilgrims gathered about the statue of Our Lady on this hallowed hill, and joined in prayer and hymns to honour Mary and to pray for her blessing in fulfilling the request she made at Fatima in 1917. Seven bishops had Mt Carmel as their distinguished guests. The weather for this season of the year was perfect. As Pope Pius XII preached in the church at Fatima, he reminded the pilgrims of the miracle of the sun witnessed by 70,000 persons. Bishop Joseph Lopez C.S.B. Archbishop O'Neill of Regina celebrated the Pontifical High Mass and the following ordinaries of Saskatchewan assisted: Bishop Joseph Lopez, C.S.B. of Gravelbourg, Bishop Philip F. Pocock of Saskatoon, Rt. Rev. Severin Lambert, O.S.B. Abbot Ordinary of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Father Patrick Breton the director of the Eucharistic Crusade delivered an inspiring sermon. In the afternoon the bishops and the Abbot celebrated the pontifical mass and the customary processions with the Blessed Sacrament, and the way of the cross took place.

✝ Later Deaths ✝

When Abbot Severin was elected head of St. Peter's Abbey there were only four graves in the Abbey cemetery those of Abbot Bruno Father John Father Boniface and Brother Silvester. A fifth was added when the remains of Prior Oswald Moosmueller were transferred from the deserted Priory in Illinois to Saskatchewan. Now there are seventy graves in the cemetery. The deaths of Father Abbot Ildefons Abbot Bruno Brothers Ephraim Edmund and Aemilian and Novice Joseph Kelly have been recorded in preceding pages.



Fr. Boniface Roth, O. S. B.

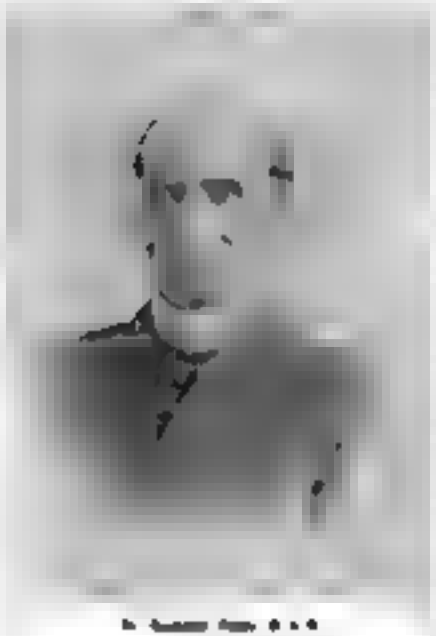
The first priest to die in the new abbey building was the Venerable Father Boniface Roth. Born in Osborn Germany, November 1864 he was over 40 years old when he was ordained by Bishop Bonomelli in Cremona Italy June 7 1902. Shortly after his ordination he came to the United States and worked for a time in the Diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota. Feeling called to the Benedictine Order came to Newcastle where he was invested by Prior Alfred as a novice and a year later made his vows June 4 1904. As a religious he led an exemplary life and served as a model for his younger confreres. From 1910 to 1911 he attended the missions at Carmen Pend Oreille Lake Pilger Simm Ft. Peck where he was stationed on the Saint of St. Elizabeth and the hospital at Shonkin. He was recalled to the Abbey in 1911 and though suffering from poor health he never himself from attending to spiritual duties while still being able to go out and visit the sick. [illegible] he suffered with patience and resignation. Two years before his death he [illegible] with appendicitis and owing to his poor health he suffered much pain but never complained. He was prepared to meet his Maker often in his prayers and during the night of January 28/29 1914 he was found kneeling on the floor of his room. After solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass celebrated by Abbot Severin he was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery.

Fr. Matthew Steger, O. S. B.

Seven years after the passing of Father Boniface Father Matthew followed him to the grave. He was born December 3 1874 at Amsterholten Germany and after his primary education in his home town he took up his higher studies at the Benedictine school in Augsburg. He came to America and entered the little Benedictine Priory of Cluny in Illinois where he received [illegible] on April 1894. Prior Oswald Moosmueller sent him to St. Vincent Archabbey in Pennsylvania to complete his philosophical and theological studies. There he was

Fr. Aristide Pardonnet, O. S. B.

Father Aristide was born on February [illegible] at Paris, France. He was a youth of [illegible] he entered the Order of St. Benedict at St. John's Abbey and professed his vows on August [illegible]. He was ordained by Bishop Trobec of St. Cloud. He was [illegible] and then he acquired a taste for [illegible] on he was for a time [illegible] and the students. [illegible] up [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]



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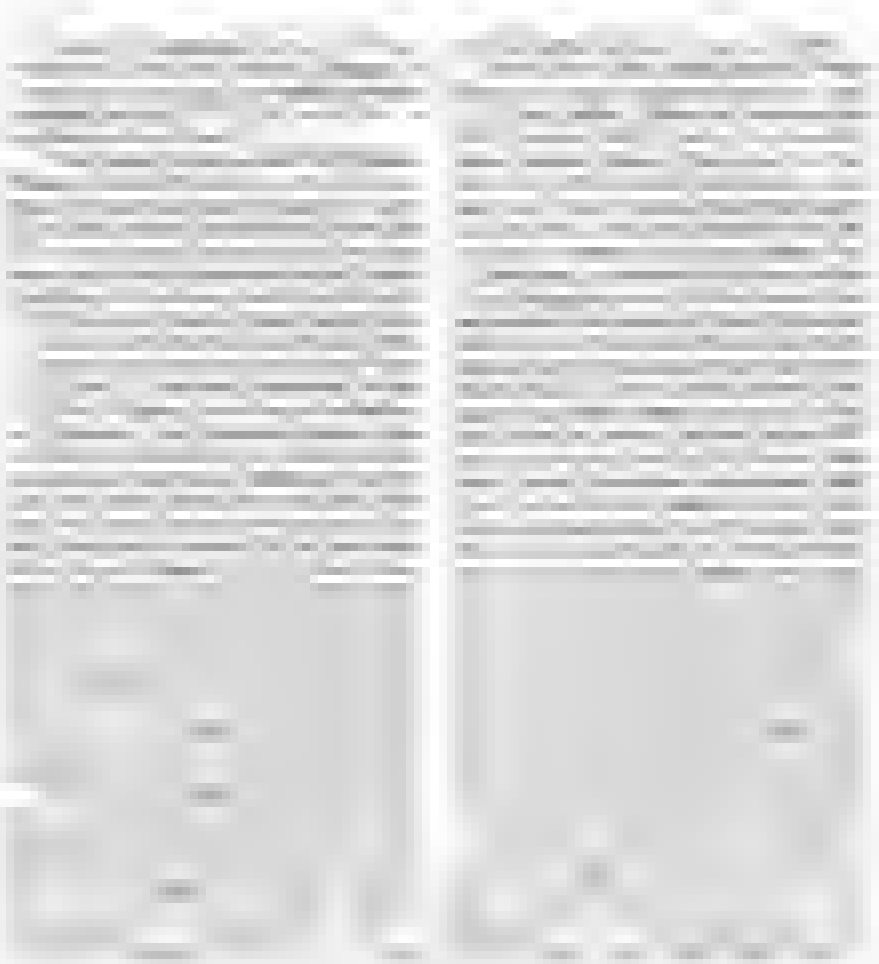
Distinguished Guests



Rt. Rev. Reginald Heber, D.D. Second Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India

Admiral Alexis Gueydon, G.C.S.I

Archbishop Oliver Elmer Hubley, first bishop and archbishop of Regina

Cardinal James Charles McGuigan, second Archbishop of Regina, now Cardinal Archbishop of Toronto, Ont.

Bishop Vincent Wehrle, D.S.S. First Abbot of North Dakota, first Bishop of Bismarck, N.D.

Bishop Gerald C. Murray, D.D.S. First Bishop of Saskatoon, later Archbishop of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Bishop Philip F. Pocock, second Bishop of Saskatoon, present Archbishop of Winnipeg, Manitoba

Bishop Patrick J. Klein, present Bishop of Saskatoon.

Archbishop Peter Joseph Monahan, third Archbishop of Regina

Bishop Joseph Hay D.D.I. Third Bishop of Grenada

Bishop M. Joseph Lenihan, O. F. - Fourth Bishop of Gore-Invercargill

[illegible] Most Rev. Joseph Thomas, D.D., Third Bishop of Peterborough, from Canadian Archives of Quebec, P.C.

Cardinal Villeneuve, O.M.I., and Father Wm. Ewart, O.M.I. at Orphanage, Prince Albert

Bishop Joseph Henri Prud'homme, second Bishop of Prince Albert and Saskatoon.

Bishop L. J. Arthur Melanson, second Bishop of Gravelbourg, later Archbishop of Moncton, N.B.

Bishop Reginald Dupuis, O.P., third Bishop of Prince Albert.

The Most Rev. Leo Pietz, D.D., Bishop of Fulton, Missouri.

Archbishop Richard Cushing O'Neill, present Archbishop of Boston

The Most Rev. John Dowling, D.D., Bishop of Hamilton

Archbishop Alexius Dumont, Coadjutor Archbishop of St. Boniface and Administrator Titular Archiepiscopal Bishop, former parishioner and pastor of Pembroke, Ont., and Bishop of St. Paul, Alberta.

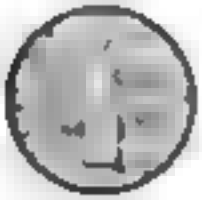
Cecil A. Hunt and Peter Fischer. From St. Meinrad Abbey, Ind., Illinois came Father Richard Gregory who did pastoral work in the diocese and at Weyburn. Vocations and Prince Albert between the years 1927 and 1929 Father Andrew Kalthoff of St. Mary's Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota, conducted the Fathers annual retreat in 1931, preached the German sermons at the pilgrimage on Mt. Carmel, and conducted the retreat for the Benedictine Sisters at Bruno, Father John Sullivan of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, and Father Cyprian Germann of St. Bernard's Abbey, St. Bernard, Alabama, assisted St. Peter's Choir from 1931 to 1934 and 1940 to 1943 respectively. Father Jerome Casmir, a member of the Abbey of Schlierbach, Austria, conducted two missions at the Fathers of St. Peter's Abbey in 1939 and 1940, and a retreat for the improvement of the parishes. Father Gallus Sherman, another Benedictine from Austria, (Innsbruck) did pastoral work for over three years after the death of Father Casmir. From 1943 to 1946 St. Peter's Abbey gave a home to Brother Norbert Hasenmueller, O.S.B., a monk of the Abbey of St. Ottilien at Muernberg, Schwarzach, Bavaria, Germany. This Brother had been detained at one of the Abbey foundations in Argentina, and at the outbreak of the Second World War it was intended that he should return to Germany, but as a consolation camp in Eastern Canada was to which he was removed to St. Peter's Abbey through the mediation of Abbot Severin. Brother Norbert was very useful in the printing office of St. Peter's Press. In 1946 he was permitted to go to Newton, New Jersey, where the Benedictine missionaries of the St. Ottilien Congregation had founded a new monastery. From 1926 to 1928 Brother John Peter of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota, lent his assistance to St. Peter's Abbey.

I love thy plains, Saskatchewan,
Thy valleys and thy hills;
Forever thy beauty leaves me raw,
My heart the freedom thrills.

I love thy sky, Saskatchewan,
All seasons on the sight
Thy rosy sunrise flung at dawn,
And clouds at daytime light.

I love thy sons, Saskatchewan,
Those men to thee so true
Courageous men of will and brawn,
Deep souled as thy sky is blue.

—Peter Meinel.



Wiegers Sister Mary Louise Pape O.S. and Sister Schlagetta Twardick O.S.F.

Father Peter administered the first baptism in the parish on July 1905 to Maria Theresia Groppe the daughter of Joseph Groppe whose homestead was on Sec. 24 T. 37 R. The mother died on August 1913. The child was baptized on a boat again which the same boat so strongly that the boat smith was almost taken. Sponsor Mr. Frank Boehm was sponsor. The first marriage contracted was that of Anton Eimer, an employee of the Peters and Anton onto September 1907 in the log church. Mr. Eimer later moved to British Columbia. For many years he supplied Regina with Christmas trees from his land. The first high Mass at Muenster was celebrated by Father Chrysostom August 20, 1905 in a tent with Fathers Peter, John and Casimir as choir. The first solemn High Mass celebrated at Muenster was on the feast of St. Scholastica, February 10 1904, by Father Peter with Fathers Rudolph and Chrysostom as deacon and subdeacon

THE OLD SETTLER.

Now two score years and ten have passed,
Since stalwart men from distant climes,
Came west to wrest a fertile soil,
To plow a home on rolling plain.

* * *

The frontier days were none at ease.
'Il cherished homes in pleasant dreams
For test and trial of varied kind.
Met settler at each doubtful turn

* * *

The prairie Monk that ne'er had felt
Ought else than thund'ring hoof
Or stealthy step of slinking beast.
Soon quivered 'neath the busy plow.

* * *

The spring, soon after wintry blasts
Had spent their biting sting.
Brought welcomed life in field and dale,
And roused the sinking hopes again.

* * *

That year. It passed, and freshened hope
Urged calloused hands to hurry on
A building homes for loved ones,
Who soon arrived to help along.

* * *

Their efforts joined, now they could work
A found a home to call their own,
To forge ahead, with foresight keen,
That now we see was not in vain.

* * *

The silvered hair on furrowed brow,
Recall the days when settlers new
Laid shoulder to a worthy task
That from above has well been blessed. H

St. Benedict Parish, St. Leo Mission, Middle Lake and Holy Trinity

Church of St. Benedict, or St. Benedict, destroyed by fire.

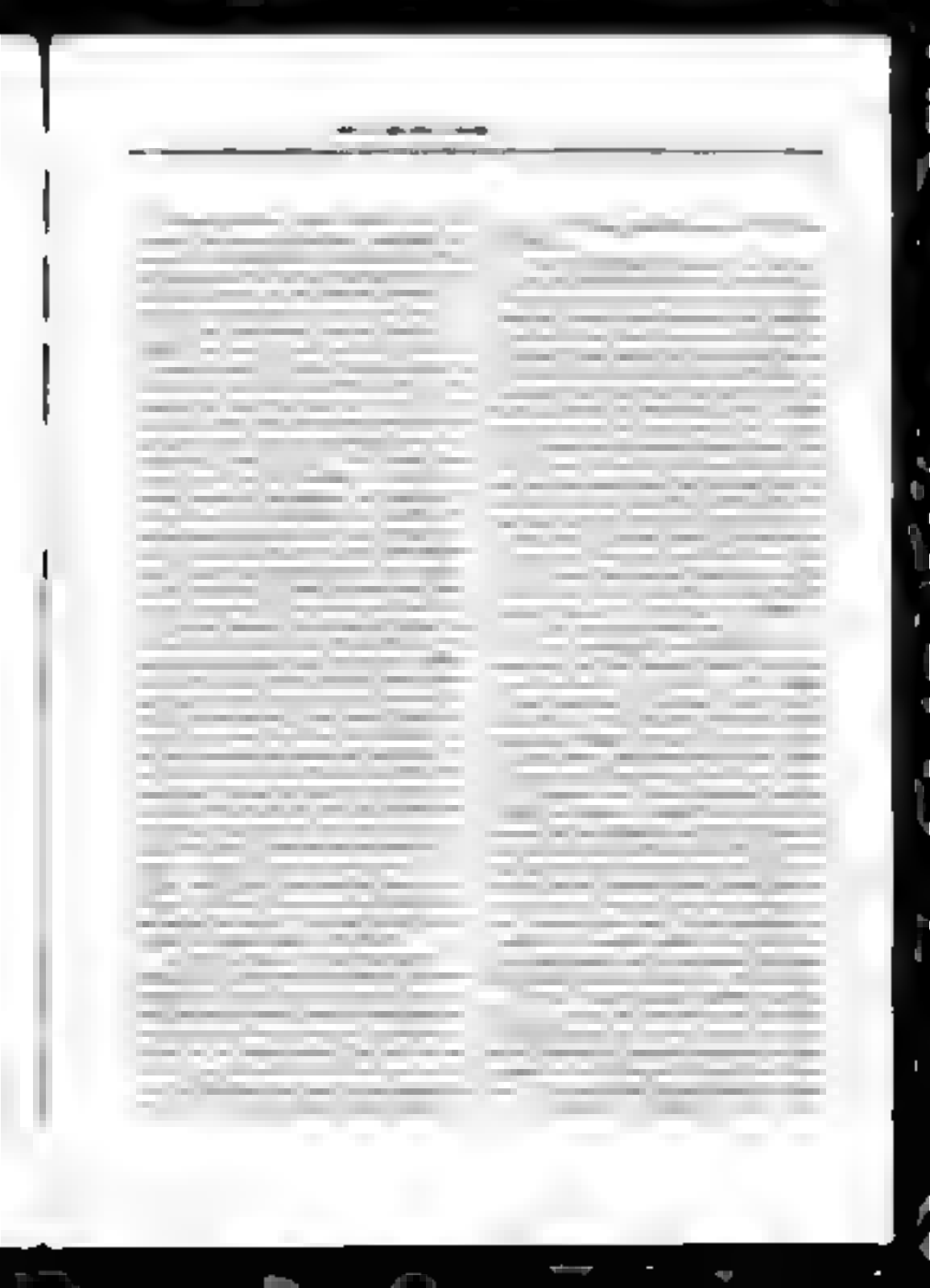
Church of The Canadian Martyrs at Noble Lake

St. Monica Church, Dunn

St Michael's Parish Cudworth

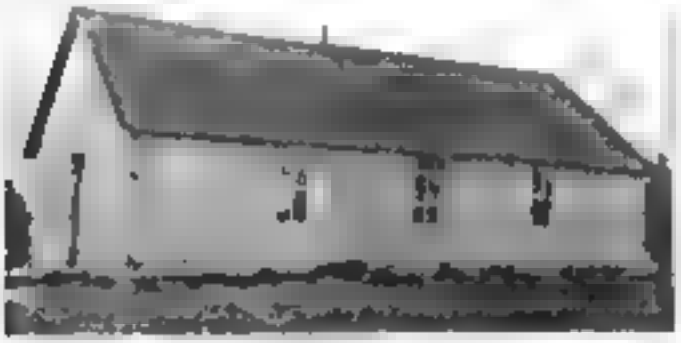
and St Maurus Mission Dana

St Michael Parish [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]



Former church of St. Joseph, Fulda.

Church of Nazareth of Fulda.



[illegible]

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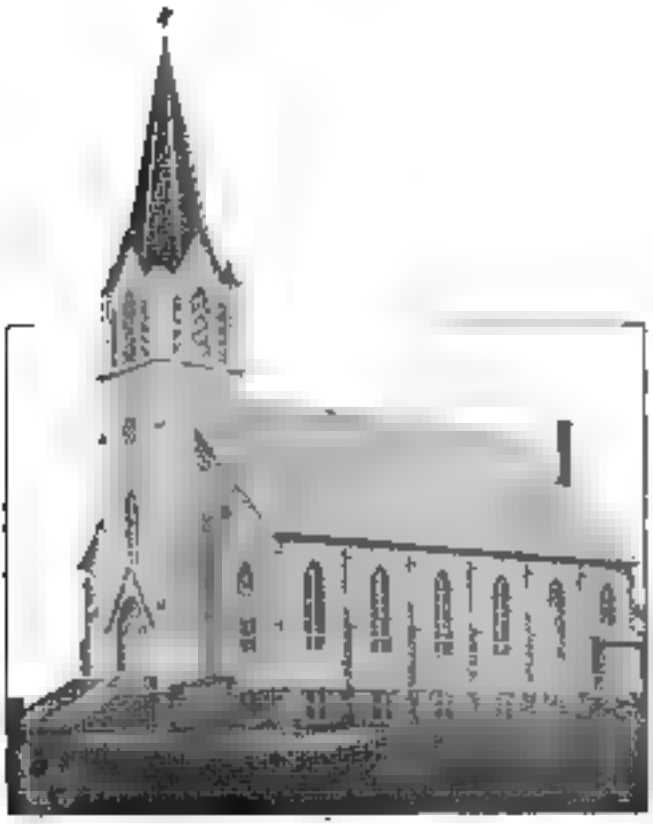
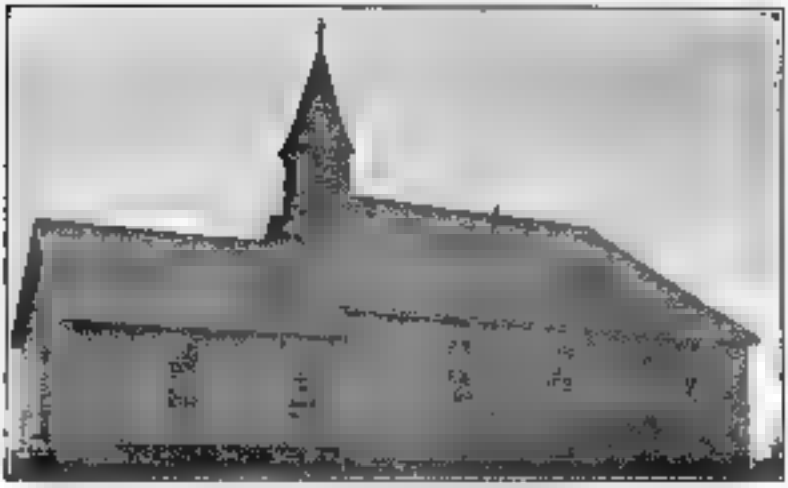
church. The plans were drawn by Mrs.



Church of St. John Baptist, Williston

Present Church of St. Joseph and Rectory at Fabius



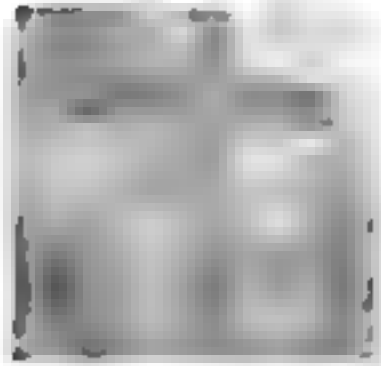
Former Church of St. John Baptist, Wildwood.

den Admont. The remains of the [illegible] were laid at Fulda and Father Peter [illegible] The pallbearers were [illegible] and Bonds. Bells passed the house of the Deceased the procession and singing [illegible] solemn requiem Mass in the church

Many [illegible] came to the funeral [illegible] after having served Mass and [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Mr. [illegible] and [illegible] Mr. [illegible] and [illegible] Mr. [illegible] and

[illegible]

[illegible]



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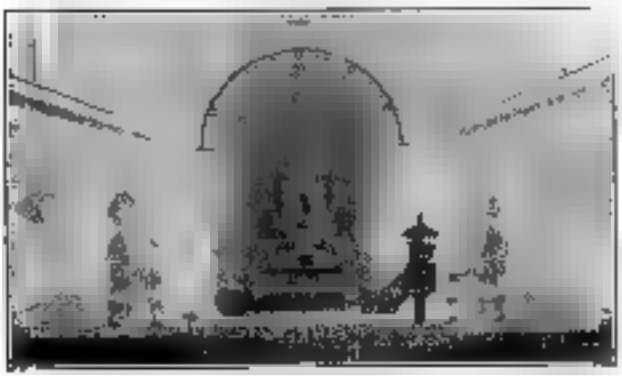
Impressive altar at Manyberry



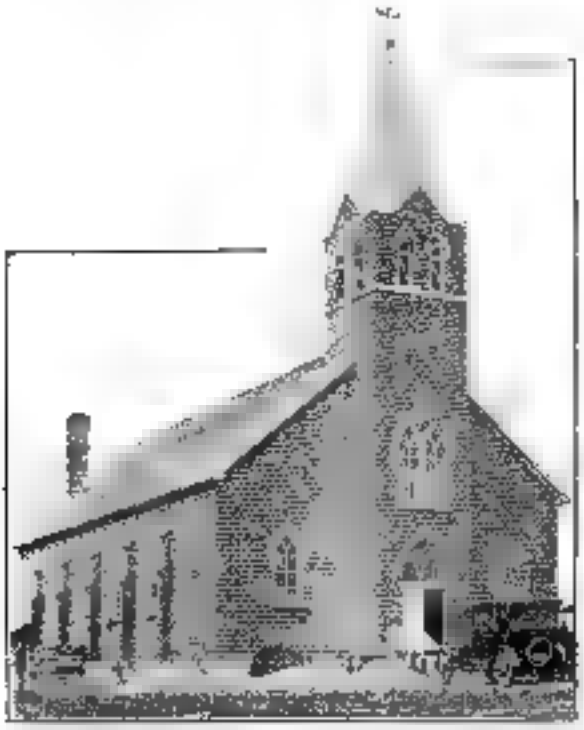
Interior of Assumption Church in 1940 Redecorated since.

X. Stoudy, Mother Xaveria, Michael Frank and Mrs Frank. Besides trustees already mentioned, the following have been on the church board: Terry Theres, Mathias Pietz, Henry Schrier, Fred Distel, George Roesch, George Kircher, Lawrence Stroeder, Michael Frank. The present board consists of Max Mueller, Isidore Pietz, Adolph Lueder, Louis Brinkmeier, Paul Baumi.

Former parishioners now in religious order: in

[illegible] sister Catherine Distel, now superior of the ursulines in Brunn; Mother Agnes Schulte, [illegible] Convent, Breda; six daughters of the deceased Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stroeder, members of the Franciscan Convent of St. Joseph, Milwaukee, Wis.; two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Stroeder in the same convent; Sister Mary Alphonse Wagner in C.S. Sister Melanie, O.S.F., and Sr. Antonia Doetl, O.S.F. Humboldt; Bro. Dominic Pietz O.S.B. at Muenster.

First log church of St. Bernard and school on old Pilger



Church of St. Bernard, Pilger, shortly after completion.

[illegible]

[illegible]

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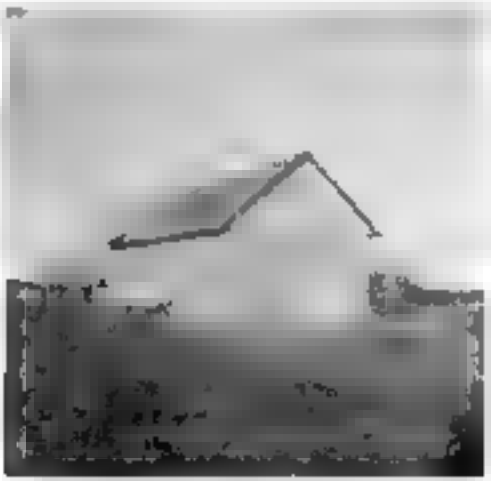


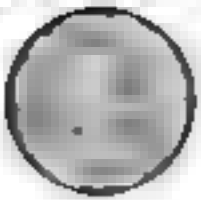
[illegible] church at Amsterdam

Old St. Ann church at Amsterdam. Fr. Rossbach in centre with group of parishioners

On October [illegible], 1904, the St. Joseph's Society

Former St. Marcus Church

Present Church at St. Marcus



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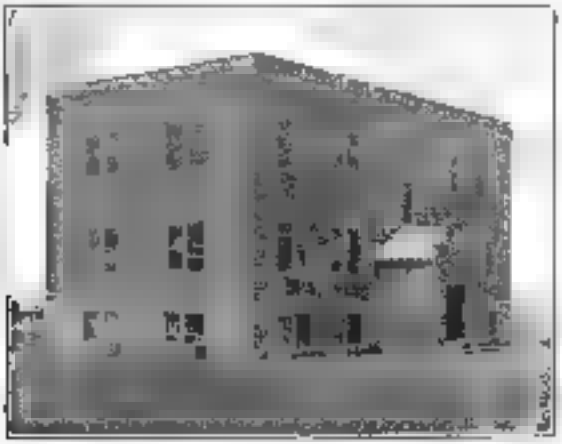


St. Anthony School, Lake Linden

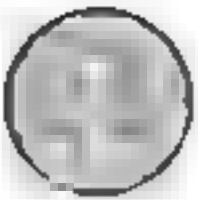
Present Church of St. Anthony, Lake Linden

6 1910, and remained until June 18. Father Dominic brought him in his buggy, accompanied

Weiland, Peter Schuler, Frank J. S

Doyscher, Hanna, Frances, Rose and Michael Hoff

Church of St James Mission



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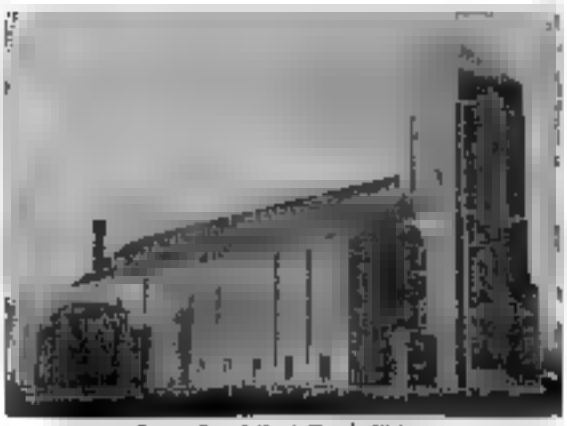
Church of the Guardian Angels and Rectory, Lyndhurst

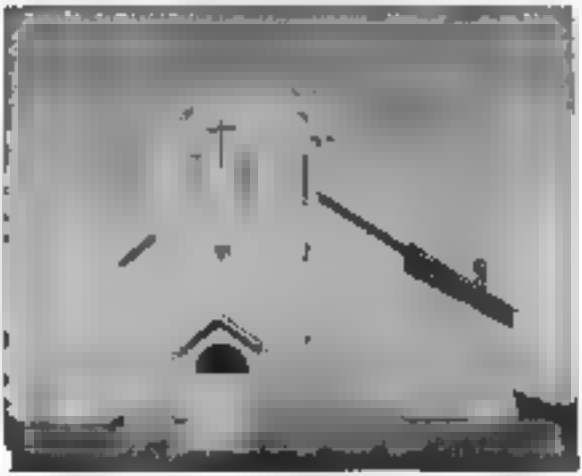
Parnell Square Hotel Church, Separate School and Rectory, Watford

Emmanuel Church at Watson

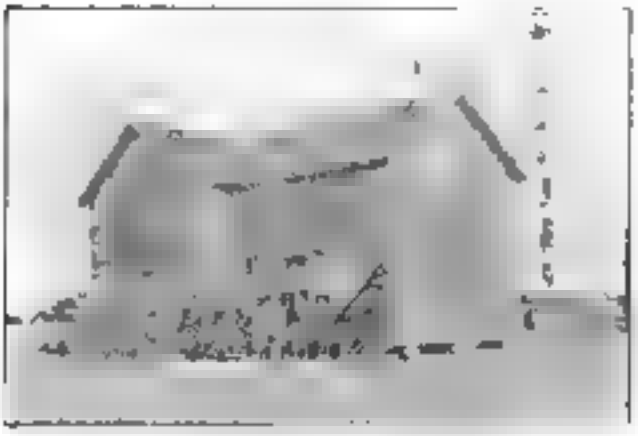


Former Sacred Heart Church, Watson

Church of St. Oswald, Runcorn



St. George's Chu



[illegible]

Holy Family Log Church, Okmulgee

Present Holy Family Church, north of Union, minutes of Lambda

Church of St. George, Hanover

Old St. Bruno Church. Fr. Chrysostom in right

St. Bruno Church and Rectory, shortly after completion

Father Bernard made extensive improvements to the church and parish house, erected a shrine in honour of the newly planted additional trees especially around the church and had the cemetery put in good condition. A bell for him into the parish was the fire in the church on January 7th, 1950. During the night a fire started near the stoker and the heat was so great that it burned off and through the roof at the southwest corner of the building, was saved through the efforts of 50 men from the town, but the intense heat and the smoke caused heavy damage to the walls and furnishings. Shawnee Brothers of Saskatoon undertook to repair the damage, renovating the church and the basement so completely that they are now in much better condition than they were before. During this work Mass was celebrated in the chapel of the Ursuline Convent.

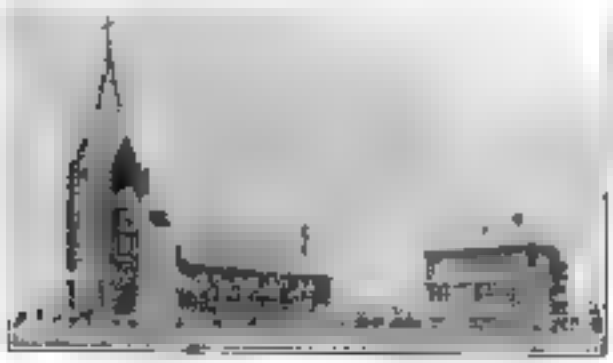
In June 19 [illegible] Father Alexius Schreiber, S. [illegible] celebrated his first solemn [illegible] ghomas in the Ukrainian church in the presence of his grandmother Mrs. van Bergen. Father Bernard was his assistant and preached the sermon while Fathers Justin and Albert were deacon and subdeacon.

On July 1952, Father Bernard celebrated a solemn Highmass to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary as pastor of St. Bruno Parish. Father Justin, part-time assistant of Father Bernard, served as deacon. Father Jerome as subdeacon and Prior Peter preached. A parish banquet and a program took place in the afternoon followed by Benediction.

Present St. Bruno Church.

[illegible]

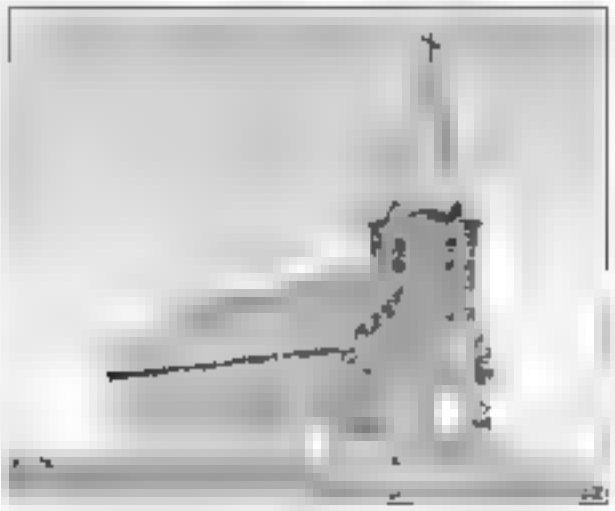
[illegible]



Church of St. Augustine and Rectory in 1922. Demolished.

Present enlarged Church of St. Augustine.

St. Scholastica



Church of Immaculate Conception

First Church of Immaculate Conception

Carmen

[illegible]

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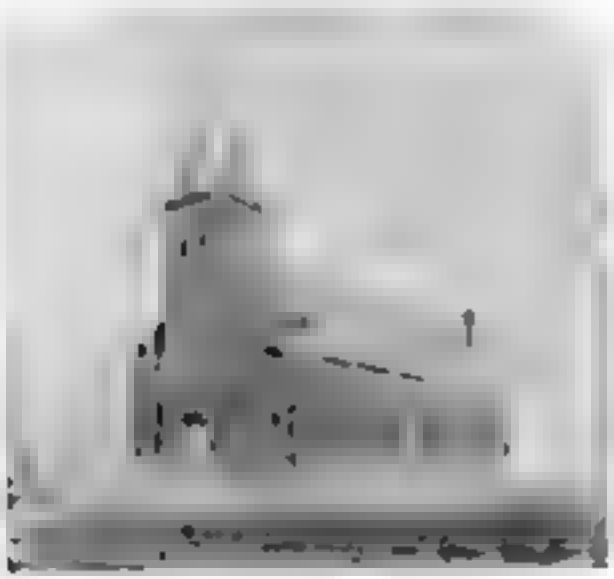


tab. /District Cattle
Colour on July 23

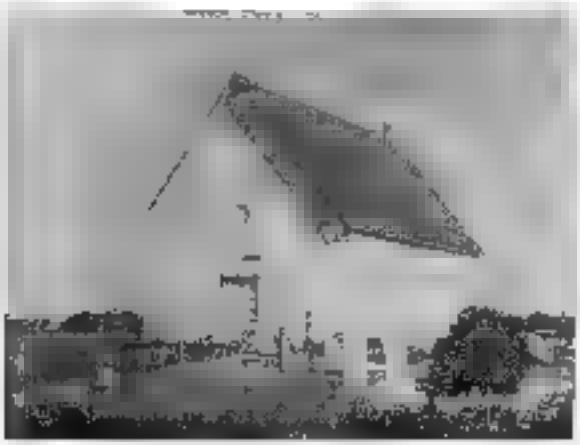
St Gertrude's Mission

enrolment 18 boys and
ith October 10 1946 T

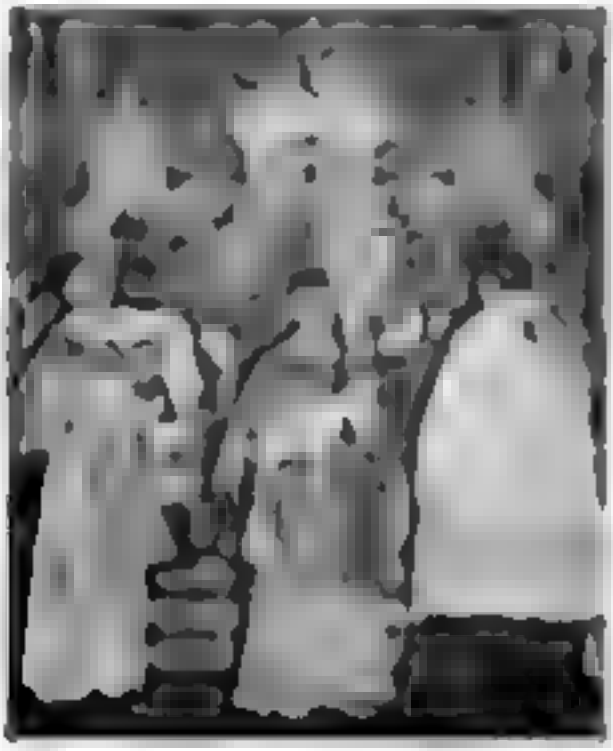
hours, one each from the young people, the Christian Mothers and the parishioners. Bishop Vallee addressed each of the pastors in turn. Father Leonard said that as pastor he was chiefly interested in the spiritual welfare of his people and pointed to the need of prayer shown in the recent apparitions of the Blessed Virgin. Father Xavier spoke briefly and congratulated the people on their cooperation with the pastor and the neighboring parish of St. Scholastica.

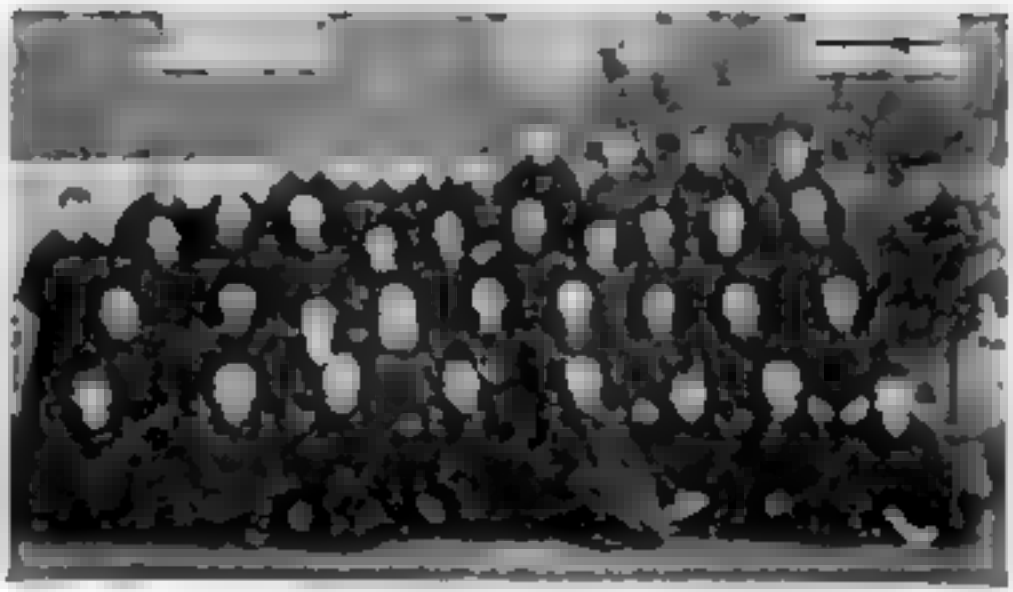
The visitors of the parish were the following: Messrs. Bernard Loebl, Leo Blasch and John Pape. The congregation consists of about 80 families. Sister Maureen, O.S.U. has joined the Ursulines of Bruno. Abbot Severin again visited the parish September 28, 1917 and confirmed 17 boys and girls. That morning he had confirmed 22 boys and 4 girls at St. Scholastica.

Church of St. Gertrude, Muenster.



Church of St. Patrick





Conclusion

As the years roll by and more and more of the first settlers pass on, the events connected in the preceding pages seem to become forgotten or at least obscured as the fog. That is why the occupant of the Episcopal Institute of St. Peter Claver at 90 Dawson Street, Dunedin, is so valuable. Through this Peter Claver we have come the Colony founded, she could hear the first accounts in the wilderness of the settlers on Port Pegasus, she heard the news today of Port Levy, still in the making through the spanish lenses, and by making the acquaintance of pilgrims by these old powers, during their future, under unknown condition, of saw the Jesuit monk on the horizon of the first Catholic Church, the cemetery secret. Pioneers and

sights make in their trips to their world up-plies. We who are through no ever the helpful experience between worldwide that crowd in our day, reminding us that it is up to us to become a true brother.

Much has been accomplished in the past fifty years. So much so, that many an old-timer who has been gone for some time and seeing the scene he used to know so well, finds it almost impossible to locate famous landmarks. The woods, fern glens and pioneer huts have vanished or have been transformed. In their place he sees modern roads of shining bituminous metal, rolling acres of cultivated land. The little churches in which he worshipped have almost all, with one exception, the old church, existed undergone change. Their humble, steep roofs, built to withstand a mixed to another wreath. Most of these old wooden spires considerable time, telling the generations for it is their use, they find the names and the mental memorial of most of them to old

who benefit from the days of those who have gone before must be reminded of the Powerful of an Egyptian proverb. For the success of the present we are in great measure indebted to the work of those who have gone before us. To them must go the credit for much that we accomplish. They have left us an example which, if we would follow it, will take our best efforts.

F. R.

SECT. JUL 24

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Fifty Golden Years

1903 - 1953

A brief history of
the Order of St. Benedict
in the Abbacy Nullius of St. Peter
Muenster, Saskatchewan
by
The Very Rev. Peter Windschiegl, O.S.B.

Imprimatur
Rt. Rev. Severin Geriken, O.S.B.
St. Peter's Abbey,
Muenster, Sask.

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"Protect, O Lord, the Vicar of Thy Son on earth together with the bishops priests, religious and all Thy faithful Vouchsafe that all, both priests and laity, the young, the mature, and the old united intimately in thought and affection. may become as a solid rock, against which the fury of Thy enemies will break in vain.

"May Thy grace enkindle in all men love for the many unfortunate people, whom poverty and misery reduce to a condition of life unworthy of human beings.

"Arouse in the hearts of those who call Thee Father a hunger and thirst for social justice and for fraternal charity in deeds and in truth.

"Grant, O Lord, peace in our days, peace to families, peace to our country, peace among nations." Amen.

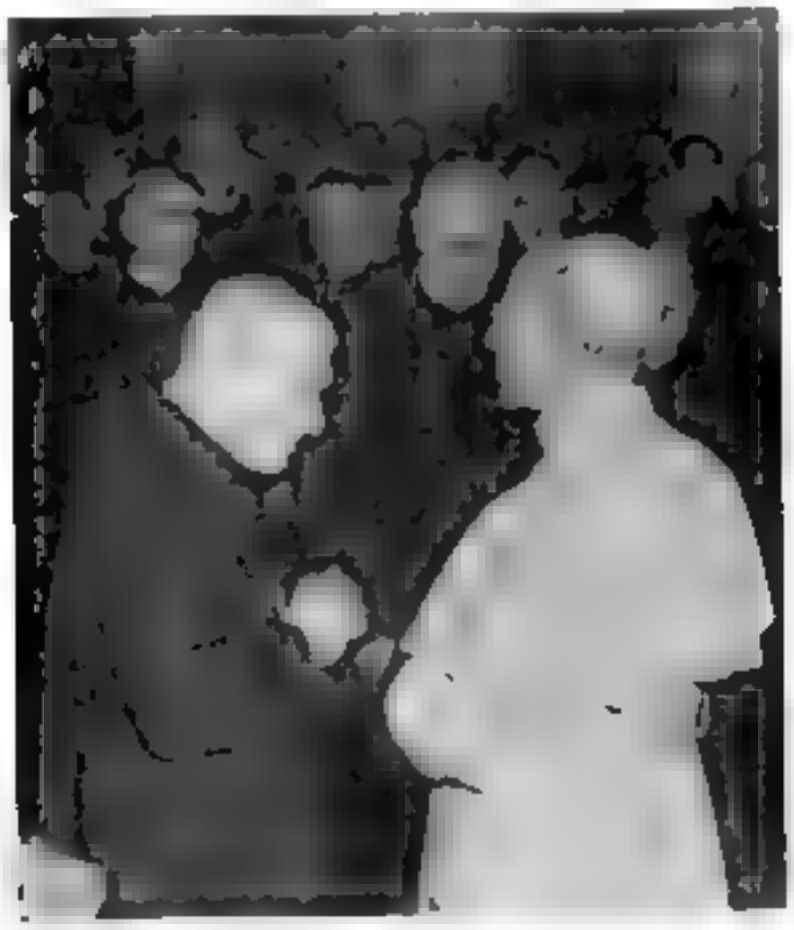
The 1950 Holy Year Prayer of Pius XII

HIS HOLINESS BLESSED POPE PIUS X

During the pontificate of Blessed Pius X (to be canonized in May, 1954, and then known as Pius X) the little monastery at Muenster was raised to the dignity of an Abbey in 1913. It was the first Benedictine Abbey in Canada, with Abbot Bruno as its first Abbot. It is of unusual interest for the period of history covered by this book that the recognition and encouragement of a canonized Saint has had a great influence on the district and its inhabitants.

The successor of Blessed Pius X, Pope Benedict XV, has this important historical connection with St. Peter's Abbey and Colony that during his pontificate the Abbey was raised to an Abbey-Nullius on May 6, 1921 the Abbot receiving episcopal jurisdiction over the Colony By this not a very unique distinction was conferred. There are very few such ecclesiastical territories in the world. This is the only one in Canada

This Pope founded the Abbey of San Girolamo in Rome and entrusted to the Benedictine Order important studies on the text of the Bible. During his pontificate the privilege was granted of inserting the name of the Abbot-Ordinary in the canon of the Mass immediately after that of the Pope, as for a Bishop in his diocese. On many Occasions Pope Pius XI has sent his blessing to the clergy and people of the Abbacy



[illegible]

[illegible] the world on Sept. 24, 1953, speaking with Abbot Primate Bernard Kaelin. Also shown are Abbot Ildefons Rea, Abbot-Ordinary of Monte Cassino and Abbot Severin Gerhen, Abbot-Ordinary of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster. Pope Pius XII is a great admirer of St. Benedict [illegible] and preached at the pontifical High Mass celebrated by Cardinal Schuster O.S.B. of Milan, in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Wall [illegible] On numerous occasions Pope Pius XII has sent his blessing to the clergy and people of the Abbey

Foreword.....

The author of these historical sketches of St. Peter's Colony, has brought to his

to Canada and the arrival of the first settlers in this section of Saskatchewan marks

1953, then, has special significance for him, for it is a matter of record that he

the only one of this status in Canada, one of the two in North America and one of only 15 in the world.

one of the two remaining priests who came in 1903, the other being Father Chrysostom Hoffmann who was ordained July 1, 1903, came to Saskatchewan

anniversary of his ordination.

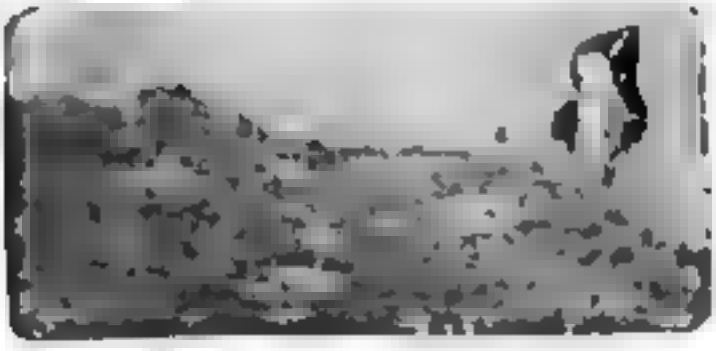
held by the first actor, the first abbot, the second abbot, etc. It is natural that they

If a greater portion of space appears to be devoted to the earlier days, this may be justified because early history has an attraction of its own, the events of that

know its own history is like a man who has lost his memory, and he who knows no

God to carry on the work so well begun — "that in all things He may be glorified

St Benedict, St Maurus, St Placid



Abbots Cassock, Hood, Cowl of the Benedictine Order

Contents

Foreword 3
List of Illustrations 5
Come Let Us Praise the Lord 7
Prior Alfred First Prior
First Parish, St Boniface, Leeteld 21
St Peter's Priory and Parish 29
The Order of St Benedict Incorporated 33
St Peter's Bote and The Prairie Messenger 4
Prior Bruno Second Prior First Abbot 5
Volksverein 49
Early Deaths 43
Father John Balfrey 43
Abbot Bruno Doerfler 47
The Sisters of St Elizabeth 47
The Ursuline Nuns 55
Abbot Michael 63
St. Peter's College 64
The Abbey Nullius 69
Achievements of St Peter's College 75
The Benedictine Brethren 8
Abbot Severin 91
Silver Jubilee of Colony 96
Abbot Severin Celebrates Silver Jubilee of Priesthood 97
Mount Carmel 89
Later Deaths 96
Fr Boniface Puth 96
Fr Mathias Steger 96
Fr Leo Ojdowski 97
Fr Franklin Tembreull 98
Fr Sylvester Seifermann 98
Fr Casimir Cismowski 99
Fr Rudolph Palm 99
Fr. Joseph Sittenauer 101
Fr Joseph Wicket 70
Fr Aurelius Rader 72
Fr Dominic Hofmann 103
Fr. Lawrence Steinkogler 104
Distinguished Guests 05
Aid from U S. Abbeys 0
New Laborers for the Harvest
St Peter's Parish
St Benedict Parish, St Leo Mission, Middle Lake and Holy Trinity 126
St Michael's Parish Cudworth and St Maurus' Mission, Dana 132
St Joseph's Parish, Foida and St John's Mission, Willmont 137
Assumption Parish, Marysburg and St Bernard Mission, Pilger 145
St Anne's Parish, Annaheim and St Martin's Mission 155
Lake Lenore and St James 163
Watson, Engelfeld St Oswald and LeRoy 173
St George's Church, Naleam
Bruno and Peterson 183
St Agnes Parish. Peterson 91
St Augustine Church, Humboldt
St Scholastica and Conception, Carmel 193
St Scholastica 204
Immaculate Conception 206
Carmel 207
Parish of St. Gregory 21
St Gertrude's Mission 215
St. Patrick's Mission
Jubilee of Abbot Severin
Conclusion

Rt. Rev. Archabbot Boniface Wimmer, O. S. B.
Founder of Benedictine Order in North America.

Come, Let us praise the Lord

"Thou shalt sanctify the fiftieth year," the Book of Leviticus says; "for it is the year of the Jubilee" (25, 10). The word jubilee is derived from the Hebrew word "jobel", meaning a ram's horn a musical instrument which was blown for proclaiming a joyful event. The Latin verb "jubilare," to shout with joy from which the English word "jubilee" and the German words "Jubel" and "Jubiläum" are derived, have practically the same meaning. Looking forward, fifty years seems to be a very long time, but looking back, one marvels how quickly they have vanished. A half century has passed since the Benedictines and the first settlers set foot in Saskatchewan.

Many of the staunch pioneers who labored and suffered are no longer here, they rest in the cemeteries, those necessary adjuncts of all parishes and missions. Those who are still living may call out with Jeremias: it is due to "the mercies of the Lord that we are not consumed" (Lam. 3). Those who have witnessed the beginning of the Abbey Nullius and have seen its development and its progress have all reason to rejoice and sing with David: "The mercies of the Lord I will sing forever" (Ps. 88. 1).

Toward the close of the 19th century, when the C.P.R. had been completed to the West Coast (1885) and the C.N.R., at the beginning of the 20th century, had plans of opening [redacted] farther north to the same coast, immigrants by the thousands streamed into the North West Territories and took up homesteads alongside the railway lines. Out of the North West Territories which in 1901 had a population of only 180,000 were carved in 1905 the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, which, according to the official census of 1951 have a population of 831 728 and 939,501 respectively.

Among these new settlers were many Catholics from the United States, especially from Minnesota. In order not to be deprived of the consolations of their religion, they asked their former pastors to help them obtain priests. The Rev. Father Conrad Gletzmeier, O.S.B., of Albany, Minnesota, was one of the priests who received such urgent requests. Father Conrad consulted his superior, the Right Rev. Peter Engel, O.S.B., Abbot of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, who sought a solution to the perplexing problem. He sent one of his most capable monks, Father Bruno Doetfler, O.S.B., Rector of St. John's University, to Canada to investigate conditions, and if possible, select a location for a more or less closed colony in the center of which eventually a monastery of the Benedictine Order could be erected as a unifying force.

Father Bruno was accompanied by three prominent laymen of Minnesota, H. J. Haskamp of St. Cloud, Moritz Hoeschen of Freeport, and Henry Hoeschen of Melrose. On August 13 they arrived at Winnipeg, Manitoba, and travelled westward along the C.P.R. the same evening. At Whitewood, about 120 miles east of Regina, now within the southern part of Saskatchewan, they began their examination of the Canadian West. Not finding a suitable location there for the proposed colony, they travelled as far west as Calgary and farther North to Wetaskiwin, about 50 miles south of Edmonton. On August 20 they set out from Wetaskiwin by team and wagon, travelled eastward as far as Battleford, and then drove along the right of way which had been surveyed for the C.N.R. to Saskatoon, a comparatively small town, where they arrived on August 27, after 400 miles by team and wagon. The result of their careful investigation was anything but satisfactory.

On reaching Saskatoon, Mr. H. Hoeschen decided to go back to Minnesota, taking the mixed train which runs at intervals and quite irregularly between Regina and Prince Albert via Saskatoon.

Father Bruno, who was brought up on his father's farm at Richfield, Minnesota, and was a very good judge of farm lands, was not dismayed in the least by the meager results and the many difficulties encountered. With H. J. Haskamp and M. Hoeschen he went by rail to Rosthern, and from here continued his explorations by team and wagon to the east. The party crossed the South Saskatchewan River at Fish Creek by means of the ferry

The Rev. Canon Hamilton, O. L. S. Lord Abbot 1911-1919 of St. Peter's Abbey, Alexandria, Natal

about ten miles southeast of Rosthern. From here they continued southeast about 30 miles, toward the region where the town of Cudworth now stands. There was no living human being for miles around. No road, no house, only beautiful virgin prairie dotted with small lakes and poplar groves. Here at last they found what they sought, a vast expanse of fertile farm land, with water and sufficient fire wood to give the settlers a good start. Father Bruno described his findings in a lengthy report in the "Record" of St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, Vol. 16, 1903 and Vol. 17. He says: "Our way led up the slope toward the northeast for several miles, and as we proceeded, our enthusiasm increased over the found treasure, for we found the soil to improve continually. When we finally arrived at the summit of the slope, we were greeted by a gentle rolling plain, studded with beautiful groves and crystal lakes. The soil of this plain was the very choicest, for it was deep black humus.

Father Bruno and Messrs. Haskamp and Hoeschen returned to Minnesota in the early part of September, 1902, and reported on their findings. Though St. John's Abbey had hardly any priests to spare for such an undertaking, the chapter of monks decided to take over the spiritual care of the settlers who would move into the new colony. Moreover the German American Land Company, formed by Messrs. Haskamp and Hoeschen, decided to buy about 100,000 acres of the railroad land in the district selected and to sell it to settlers who wanted more land than a quarter section. Only the even numbered sections, 2, 4 up to 36 in a township were available for homesteading, excepting therefrom sections 8 and 26 which were Hudson Bay sections. From the numbered sections, sections 11 and 29 were set aside as school sections.

In order to direct Catholic immigrants to the new colony, the Catholic Settlement Society was created by Messrs. F. J. Lange and Costello of St. Paul, Minnesota, who extensively advertised the venture and greatly assisted the settlers in filing their homesteads and locating them thereon. The government of Canada, realizing the importance of agriculture for the entire country and anxious to populate the vast expanse of productive lands west of Winnipeg, offered to each immigrant of 18 years or over a homestead of 160 acres, a quarter section of land, for the paltry sum of $10.00, with the understanding that the settler would live on the homestead for six months of the space of three years and bring at least 30 acres of his homestead under cultivation. After the expiration of three years the government granted him the title to his land in fee simple.

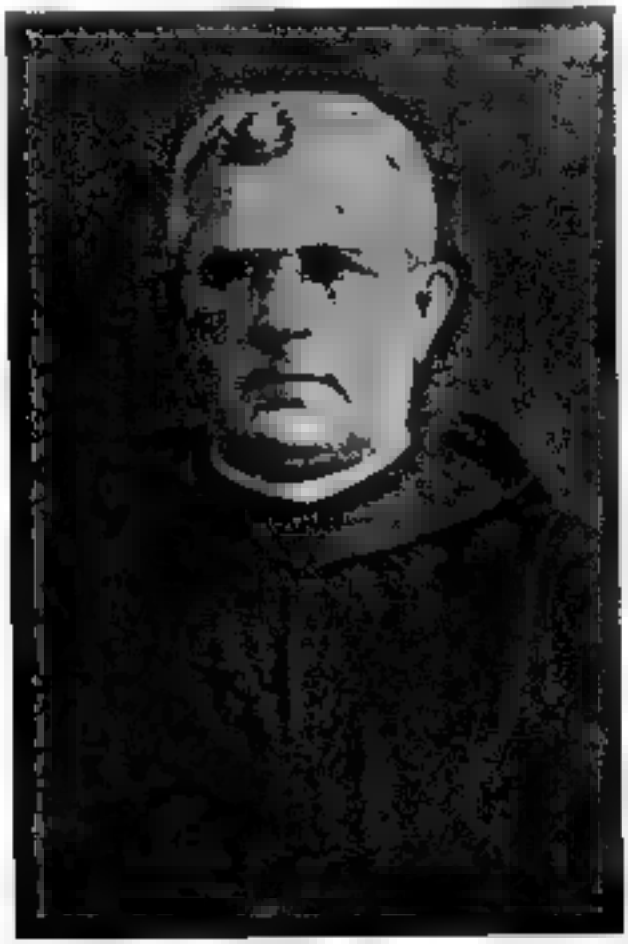
The enthusiastic report of Father Bruno and Messrs. Haskamp and Hoeschen caused no little excitement, as did also the purchase of 100,000 acres of land in the selected district by the German American Land Company and the subsequent announcements of the Catholic Settlement Society. The promise of the Benedictine Fathers to take over the care of souls in the proposed colony was undoubtedly one of the chief factors in successfully founding it.

A "pearl of great price" had been found, to use Our Lord's words, Matth. 13, 46. No wonder that everyone interested in the great project wished to see for himself. Thus it happened that Fathers Conrad Glattacker, O.S.B., and Herman Bergmann, O.S.B., the latter then Prior of St. John's Abbey and others wished to see the land. In company with Father Bruno and John and Moritz Hoeschen they set out towards the end of September, 1902, and made a very thorough inspection of the land, moving as far east as Mt. Carmel. Finding conditions very satisfactory, Fathers Conrad and Herman returned to Minnesota, while Father Bruno and Mr. Hoeschen continued their explorations. Father Bruno even joined a group of surveyors and received from them all possible information. He inspected the land as far east as the present sites of the parishes of Wilmont, Pilger and Foam Lake. When about to return to Minnesota, he met at Rosthern a group of 26 German Catholic landseekers who had come to pick homesteads at once. Always ready to accommodate others, he changed his plans and immediately accompanied the men, each of whom selected a homestead before returning to the United States. Thus, late in the fall of 1902, the colony was definitely decided upon and the foundations of the great undertaking were duly laid. In honor of Abbot Peter Engel, to whom the new colony owed so much, it was called St. Peter's Colony.

In the group of homesteaders mentioned above were the following: Bernard Lukas, Geo. Frey, Michael Roeneberg, Peter Hankey, Math. Gyoerick,

Frank Green Jr., Jos. Hanacek, Nic Korth, John Meiermach, Frank Kohle, John Duerr Jacob Eul Nic Datzeden and Paul Wilde October 10, the group arrived at Rosthern and next day, with Father Bruno as their guide, obtained six teams for the trip to pick their homesteads. In the company of Father Conrad was Carl Mondl of Albany Minn. and Math Butala of Millerville, Minn. Other homeseekers who visited the colony in 1902 were Lawrence Lundberg, Gerhard Kuemper, John Brinkmeier, John Maurer, Ph J. Hoffmann, Hy Wirtzjac Gransch, Con. Schaefer and Hy Kalthoff

The homesteaders who had picked their claims and filed for thirty-one homesteads returned to Rosthern, rested for a day and with Father Bruno started on the 16th for the United States. When Mr. Renneberg asked Father Bruno, "If we return in spring to take possession of our homesteads, will we then have priests to take care of our spiritual needs?", Father Bruno replied, "As soon as the settlers arrive, we will also be here." Mr Renneberg in a later report commented, "Thanks be to God, the Fathers have kept their word." Mr Renneberg in describing the experiences of his first trip to Canada in 1902 stressed the paternal solicitude of Father Bruno. When they spent the night of October 11 at the home of a certain Mr Venne, a French mother Father Bruno, before retiring, saw to it that every man was well covered by blankets, so none of them would catch a cold, for during the night a light snow fell and the air was chilly.



Peter Alfred Mayer, O. S. B. First superior of the Benedictine community in Saskatchewan, 1903 1906.

Prior Alfred - First Prior

There was at that time in the southern part of Illinois, near Wetaug, not far from Cairo and St Louis, a small struggling Benedictine Prior founded in the year 1892 by the Archabbey of St Vincent of Latrobe, Pennsylvania It was called Cluny after the once famous Benedictine Abbey in France, founded in 910 Many saints and popes went forth from this Abbey which was destroyed by the enemies of the Church in the year 1790 A very saintly monk the learned Father Oswald Moosmueller O.S.B., author of "Der Geschichts reind." "Europäer in Amerika vor Columbus "Bonifaz Wimmer, O.S.B.," and "Die Legende was the Prior of Cluny Illinois His mortifications went so far, that during the last six years of his life he abstained from using a bed for his night's rest but slept on a chair using as covering a scanty sheepskin. A sketch of his life and a resume of the history of Cluny by Father Peter Wandschiegl. O.S.B., a member of the Cluny Priory, appeared in the German *St Peter's Bote* from May 20 to August 5 1926. Vol. 25. No. 15 26 The article in a condensed form was translated and appeared subsequently in the "Central blatt and Social Justice," St Louis, Mo.

On his regular mission trip to St Joseph's Church at Wetaug on the feast of the Epiphany Jan. 6, 1901, Father Oswald contracted pneumonia, and died four days later (How highly Father Oswald Moosmueller was revered after his death is attested by the fact that two members of the former Cluny Prior Priory, Fathers Leo Odowski, and Bernard Schaeffler, in compliance with a decision of the chapter of St Peter's Abbey, went to Illinois by auto, exhumed his remains and brought them to Muenster where after a Requiem High Mass celebrated by Prior Peter Wandschiegl. O.S.B., they were re-interred the Abbey cemetery September 10 1929

The members of Cluny Priory at the death Prior Oswald were the following Fathers Matthias Steger, Benedict Steigenberger Peter Windschiegl Pius Eckl, who shortly afterwards left and became secular priest), Fraters Rudolph Palm, John Bal Leo Odowski and Caspar Hutter. (The last member named left after the expiration of his simple vows.) Novices and Brothers of the com Adolph Steiger. The latter left the community in 1904 and became a secular priest Father Bernard Schaeffler, O.S.B. was at that time a candidate for the Order

On January 25, 1901, the Right Rev. Abbot Innocent Wolf, O.S.B., of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, Abbot President of the American Cassinese Congregation, presided at an election of a new Prior for the Cluny Community Father Maurus Hartmann, O.S.B., of St. Vincent Archabbey was elected but declined the priorship When Father Leo Eichenlaub, O.S.B., also of St Vincent Archabbey was subsequently elected, and likewise declined. Abbot Innocent petitioned the Holy See to appoint a Prior, suggesting Rev Alfred Mayer, O.S.B. of St John's Abbey, at that time the pastor of St Clement's Church in Duluth Minnesota. On April 26, 1901, the Holy Father granted the petition, and appointed Father Alfred as the second Conventual Prior of the Cluny Monastery for a term of five years. In obedience to the Holy Father's wish, Father Alfred accepted and arrived at Cluny on July 2, 1901 On July 11 the Solemnity of St Benedict, the two clerical sea, Leo Odjowski and Caspar Hutter made simple triennial vows. Peter Schaeffler was received into the novitiate on September 24, 1901 and was given the name in religion of Frater Bernard

It did not take Prior Alfred long to be convinced that Cluny had no future It was no place for any sizeable monastery: the land was indeed productive enough, but the climate was very healthy, due to the many marshes in the and malaria seized practically every member of the community. The population was almost entirely non-Catholic and there was no chance of expansion. Various plans to move the community to a different location, to Caseyville between Belle

Rt. Rev. Oswald Moosmueller, O. S. B. Founder and First Superior of the Benedictine Community, Cluny, Watseka, Ill.

ville and East St. Louis, to Long Island, New

forms, or to amalgamate with the Benedictines in Colorado, proved inadvisable. Prior Alfred, though a man of extraordinary will power, almost discouraged and had in mind to disband the community. At this time Abbot Peter Engel suggested to Prior Alfred and his community that they move to Canada, and offered to assist in every possible way. This was indeed welcome news to

to a chapter meeting on December 22, 1902 the parish house of the Assumption Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, to consider Abbot Peter's proposition. Present at this chapter were Prior Alfred as chairman, Fathers Mathias Stoerr, Benedict Steigenberger, and Peter Windschiegl. The chapter decided that the offer of Abbot Peter be gratefully accepted, and that the Cluny Priory be transferred to Saskatchewan. The new Benedictine foundation in Canada was to be called St. Peter's Monastery.

Prior Alfred, was the instrument chosen by divine Providence to grapple with the task of transplanting a Benedictine monastery from the United States to the heart of Saskatchewan. He faced all difficulties with fortitude. No sooner had the decision been made to move to Canada than he set out with Father Bruno January 4, 1903 — to inspect the new territory over which he to extend his spiritual guidance. Since snow covered the whole territory, they could not see much, but they came as far as the southeast quarter of section 21 township 41, range 25, where the German American Land Company had house and stable for the convenience of the ing settlers. Here it was that on January 11, 1903 both said Holy Mass — the first Masses offered in St. Peter's Colony — and they named the trict St. Benedict. They visited the district 12 n south and called it Leofeld, in honor of the ously reigning Pope Leo XIII. Then they returned to Rosthern and proceeded to Prince Albert to see Bishop Francis Regis Albert Pascal, O.M.I. whose territory the Vicariate Apostolic of Prince Albert the new colony was located, and whose permission, and that of the Holy See, had to be for the foundation of the monastery.

The good bishop received them with open arms and confessed: "To my knowledge I have never seen a Benedictine, and know very little of their activity. But when the visit of Fathers Alfred Bruno was announced to me and the purpose of their coming was told me, my heart leaped for joy and I received them as messengers sent from God." On January 16, 1903, a document was drawn up by the bishop and Father Alfred and sent to Rome for ratification. The document stipulated that the Benedictine Fathers were to take spiritual charge of all the settlers in the following territory: Townships 35 — 40 in Ranges 18 — 22, and Townships 37 — 41 in Ranges 23 — 26, a district of fifty townships all west of the second meridian. Ratification by the Holy See was executed on September 12, 1903. By this time already 700 homesteads were filed in the colony.

Prior Alfred's solicitude for the venture was

winter, he risked another trip into the wilderness which was to be St. Peter's Colony. With Father Dominic Hofmann, O.S.B., then assistant priest of the Assumption Church in St. Paul, a man filled with the missionary spirit, he set out on February 25, 1903 for Rosthern. From here they drove in a covered sleigh which they called "Bismarck," as far as Waldsea in the vicinity of Dead Moose Lake, where they had to spend the night and nearly froze to death. Prior Alfred intended to go as far as the place where he planned to erect the monastery and where he had already filed a number of homesteads for his monks. However, he had to turn back, principally because the snow was crusted so much it wounded the feet of the horses. On April 13, 1903, Prior Alfred made his third trip to Rosthern and made the necessary arrangements for the transfer of Cluny Priory to St. Peter's Colony in spring.

May 1903 arrived — the beautiful month of Mary — the month in which the Benedictines of Cluny Priory came to Canada and established a new monastery in the heart of Saskatchewan! Towards the beginning of this memorable month word came from Rosthern to St. John's Abbey that the settlers were arriving by the hundreds, moving into the new colony, and anxiously awaiting the arrival of priests. There was no time to be lost and Prior Alfred was equal to the occasion. St. John's Abbey served as the gathering point for the men

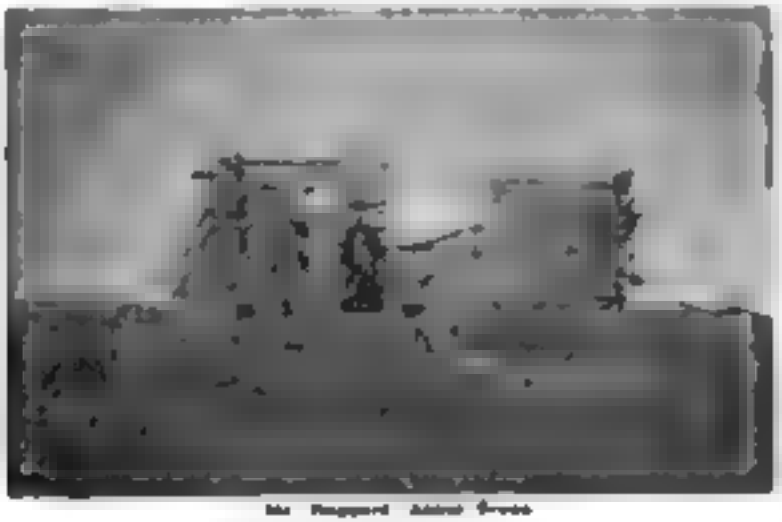
Rt. Rev. A. Pascal, O.M.I. First Bishop of Prince Albert

who were to be sent out for Canada. Fathers Peter Windschegl and Rudolph Palm had already been sent to St John's Abbey in the fall of 1901 for their theological studies, and Fr. Bernard Schaeffler, after pronouncing his vows on May 8, 1903, had also been sent there to pursue his studies. Fr. John Belfrey had come some time before his ordination, and Brother Adolph Steiger was sent there to work in the kitchen to fit himself as cook for the new monastery. Bishop Trobec of St. Cloud, Minnesota, was asked to come to St. John's Abbey to confer tonsure and orders on Fratres John and Bernard, on May 9 subdeaconship on Fratres John and Rudolph, on May 10. deaconship on both, May 11, and Holy Priesthood on Fathers Peter and John on May 12.

On the very day Fathers Peter and John were ordained, Prior Alfred, Father John, Father Rudolph and Father Meinrad Seifermann, O.S.B. a member of St John's Abbey, who had volunteered for the mission fields of Canada, Brothers Adolph and Bruno Fuchs, the latter a novice, and Alowsius Gleissner, a candidate for the order, set out for Canada. The intrepid Father Bruno accompanied them as an expert guide. Father Peter left on the same day for Cincinnati, Ohio, where on May 17 he offered his first solemn High Mass in St. Michael's Church in the presence of his two brothers and their families.

The group of seven Benedictine pioneers arrived in Winnipeg the next morning, in Regina on the morning of May 14, and in Rosthern on May 14, late in the evening. Prior Alfred and Father Meinrad celebrated Holy Mass the next morning in Rosthern's skating rink. After breakfast at the Queen's Hotel, Prior Alfred purchased a large tent which served as a portable monastery, three teams of horses, three big wagons, a disk a harrow, and all the provisions necessary for the long trek to the place selected for the future monastery. Father Meinrad left toward noon of May 15 for Leofeld, the first parish in St. Peter's Colony, to which he was assigned as pastor. Afternoon on May 16 the other six members left Rosthern, starting the almost 100 mile journey to the place where St. Peter's Abbey now stands. Prior Alfred drove the first team, Brother Bruno the second, and Father Rudolph the third. Toward 5:00 o'clock they arrived at Fish Creek where two Oblate Fathers, the Revs. Ed. Krist and A. I. Forner, had charge of a small parish of Catholic Metis. Next morning, a Sunday, Prior Alfred offered Holy Mass in the village church, and then the trek continued. (During the night one of the horses which had been tied to the wagon succeeded in opening the pail of sugar which Brother Adolph had placed on the wagon, and emptied it entirely, but suffered no ill effects. The party intended to stop at Leofeld, but lost its way in the nearly [illegible]nd trackless wilderness, by-passed it by 9, and camped in the vicinity of Mt. Carmel for the night. When they awoke next morning the ground was covered with several inches of snow. The warm rays of the sun, however soon melted it. In the evening of May 20 they came to Humboldt Station, used formerly as a telegraph station a short distance south of the spot where Humboldt now stands, and found a fairly large house, but, uninhabited and in a most desolate condition, without doors, the floors covered with straw a prey to all kinds of insects. The tired pioneers were glad to have a roof over their heads that night. The following morning they finally reached Wolf Creek, along the banks of which were the homesteads for which Prior Alfred had filed claims for a number of his community but which none of them had yet seen. They pitched their tent on the east side of the Wolverine Creek on section 18, township 37 range 21, and shortly before Prior Alfred was able to offer the first Mass in the vicinity of the town of Muenster. It was May 21 the feast of the Ascension of Our Lord. 1903. Along with the rest of the party, Fred Distel and Anton Euner, two homesteaders, were able to attend. In the afternoon they inspected the land found it quite satisfactory and gathered dry grass

For several weeks after their arrival the Fathers and Brothers lived in tents. A small log house was built shortly, and a little later a frame house, 14x16 feet with sleeping quarters upstairs, was erected. Founding a new monastery in a wild, uninhabited country, a hundred miles from the nearest railway station, in a territory devoid of all conveniences naturally involves a lot of expense. Prices were high in those days, and the pioneers needed many things. Small coins, such as coppers were not even known at that time, and the smallest amount charged for any article, such as a box of matches 25 cents. Where did Prior Alfred get the



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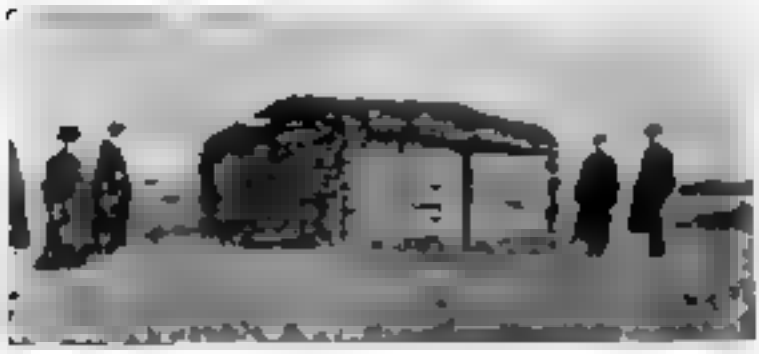

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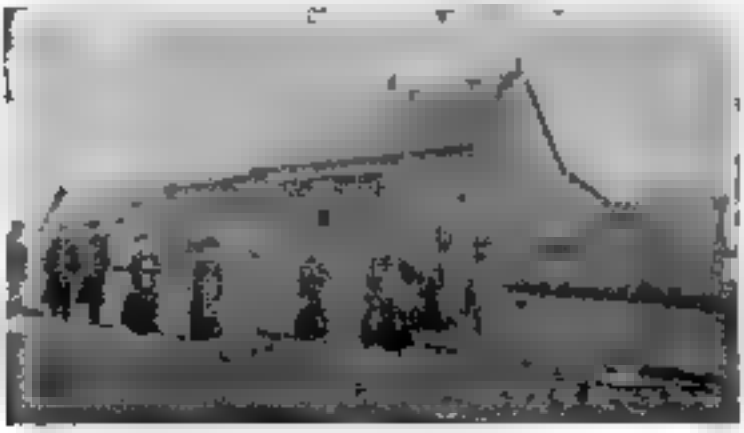
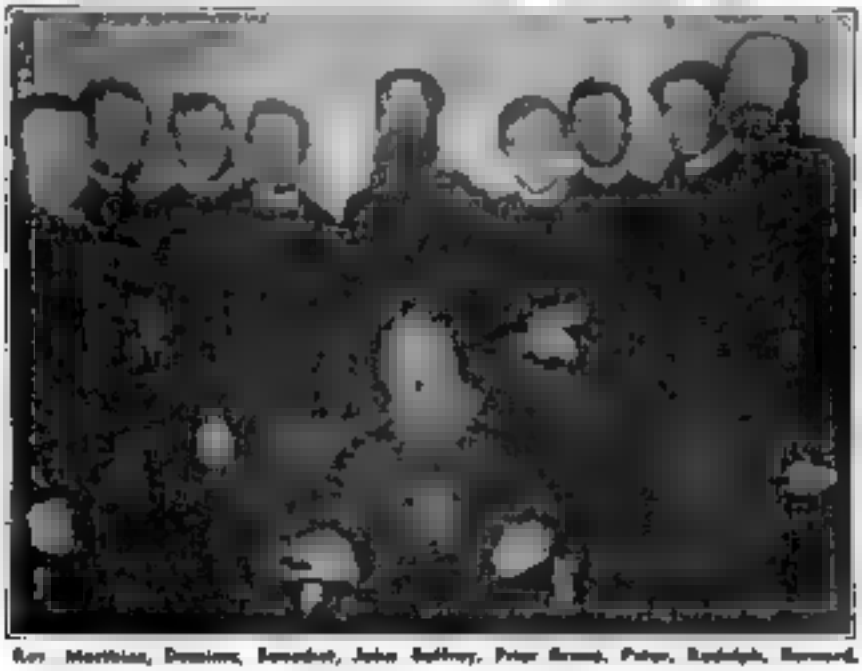


Second Monastery, later refectory and kitchen.

Fr. Casimir and Bro. Aloysius going on a missionary trip.

Prior Brown, Abbot Peter, St. John's, Abbot Charles, St. Leo, Florida, while on visitation.



Rev. Maurice, Dominic, Benedict, John Sidney, Prior Bruno, Peter, Rudolph, Bernard, Boniface, Bishop Parent, seated.

means to finance such a venture? Prior Oswald had saved some money before he died — not much indeed — and Father Matthias, who administered the property of the Cluny Priory when the community moved to Canada, was directed by Prior Alfred to sell the cattle, machinery and all the articles of value and to send the money to Canada. Father Matthias was assisted by Fr. [illegible] Brother Rhabanus Carouge in this work, until they also, the latter two in the fall of 1903, and the former in the spring of 1904, came to Canada. When Father Matthias left Cluny on March 7, 1904, the feast of St. Benedict, one of the most violent thunderstorms raged over Cluny, the likes of which he had not witnessed before. The land which the Cluny Priory owned was finally sold in the year 1906. It comprised over 800 acres. Father Benedict Steigenberger, who had been assistant priest in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and in several other places, joined his community in Canada in June 1904.

Besides Father Meinrad, other members of St. John's Abbey expressed the wish to do missionary work in St. Peter's Colony and help establish St. Peter's Monastery. These were Father Dominic Hofmann, O.S.B. an assistant of Prior Alfred while the latter was pastor of Assumption Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Father Ildephonse Molitor, O.S.B. Permission was readily granted, and Father Dominic arrived at the little colony during the second half of July 1903. Fr. Casimir, a cleric at the time, was also permitted to join St. Peter's Monastery, and arrived the same month. Father Ildephonse arrived in 1905, and on October 20, of that year, celebrated his silver anniversary as priest at St. Joseph's Church, Fulda, of which he had been appointed pastor. Father Dominic was appointed pastor of St. Anne's parish at Annaheim. Father Chrysostom Hoffman a member of St. Anselm's Priory, Manchester, New Hampshire, joined St. Peter's Monastery in 1903, and arrived at the place of his future activity the last week of August 1903. Frater Bernard, still a cleric, arrived in the summer of 1905.

Looking back over the past fifty years with all its hardships, trials and privations, one cannot fail to see the finger of God who guided all in the undertaking. The colony prospered. Approximately one thousand homesteads were taken during the year 1903, and by 1906 the population had increased to 6,000. With the increase in population the demands upon the Priory also increased.

Father Denis Gaertner, O.S.B. with [illegible] employed by Archabbey
Flat Automobile, 1903.

St. Andrew Church and Rectory

St. Andrew Church and School, Lowell

The First Parish

St. Boniface - Leofeld

The first parish in St Peter's Colony was organized by Father Meinrad, who on May 17, 1903 said the first Sunday Mass at Leofeld. In addition he was in charge of St. Benedict, as a Mission, in the Hoodoo district, where Prior Alfred and Father Bruno had said Mass for the first time on January 11, 1903. The buildings which had been erected by the German American Land Company for the convenience of the settlers were afterwards used for missionary purposes, the stable being converted into a dwelling for the priest, and the house the first church. At Leofeld a short distance south east of the present town of Codworth — the place is designated by a large cross — Father Meinrad said Mass in a temporary shack which resembled a large wardrobe, until a new location was found, south of Leofeld Lake, where the dynamic priest aided in erecting a frame church which still serves the parish. Caspar Walerius built the high altar, John Wunderlich made the pews and Nicholas Arnoldy made the side altars. Close to the church Father Meinrad and his parishioners erected the parish house of logs which were later covered with siding. Math. Renneberg laid the stone foundation for the church. School was held in the church with 46 children present, and the first teacher was Peter Schwinghammer. Peter Bexler was organist and choir leader a position he held for many years. Rudolph Ehrmann of Regina and Johanna Medernach were the first couple to marry in the new Church, January 7, 1904. In the spring of 1904 a separate building was constructed to serve as the new school. It is noteworthy that all these achievements were accomplished in less than a year, all buildings being erected on Father Meinrad's homestead. To the east of the church Fred Imhoff built a store and became Leofeld's postmaster. Leofeld maintained its parochial school to the year 1929.

Leofeld was privileged to have the first visit of Bishop Pascal. On May 4, 1904, he solemnly blessed the new church, celebrated a pontifical High Mass with Prior Alfred as assistant priest, Fathers Dominic, O.S.B. and Krist, O.M.I., deacon and subdeacon, and Fathers Pille, O.M.I., and Meinrad, O.S.B. masters of ceremonies. Prior Alfred preached the festive sermon in German and bestowed the highest praise on the parish and its energetic pastor. At 3:00 o'clock Bishop Pascal conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on 46 children of the parish, among them 15, who the previous Sunday had received their first Holy

The bishop expressed his great joy in being able to pay his first visit to St. Peter's Colony, and officiated at the fourfold function — blessing of the church, pontifical High Mass, Confirmation and blessing of the first parochial school. Thirty years ago, he passed through this district by oxcart from Winnipeg to Prince Albert, he said. His destination was the Indian Missions in the far north, where he spent sixteen years, attending to the Indians, living in a poor cabin, and subsisting on fish and smoked meat. His predecessor, Vicar Apostolic Henri Faraud, O.M.I., of Athabaska-Mackenzie, an outstanding missionary in the far north, died in his arms, September 1890. After Bishop Faraud's death he went to France to rest a little after his missionary labors, and while there received the staggering news from the Holy See that he was appointed bishop of the newly established Vicariate Apostolic of Prince Albert. When he arrived at Prince Albert he found neither a church nor parish house, only a poor humble school house. It needed a lot of prayer to establish his see and episcopal residence. His most ardent prayer and desire was that the vast territory under his newly acquired jurisdiction would be peopled by good Catholics, no matter what race. He rejoiced therefore, when the Benedictine Fathers decided to come to his district and found a German Catholic colony. He concluded with the words: "To all of you I extend a hearty welcome. Do persevere! The beginning indeed, is hard, fraught with hardships and trials but I am convinced, with your diligence spirit of sacrifice, and perseverance, you will attain

Then the speaker a beautiful statue of St

Fr. Meinrad Quirmbach, O. S. B. First Pastor of the first Parish in the Colony — St. Boniface, Leofeld.

Boniface, the Apostle of Germany and the patron saint of the parish, which Father Meinrad had purchased in Munich, Bavaria, arrived. The same summer a very fine 600 lbs. bell from the Meneeley Bell Co., Troy, N. Y., was acquired, both of which were blessed by Prior Alfred on A 904. Maria Gloriosa, is the name given to the bel Approximately 250 persons received Holy Com munion on that day

Shortly before the statue and bell arrived Father Meinrad had a painful accident. On his way home from Rosthern, his one-horse cart bumped violent ly through a hole, and he was thrown from the seat. When he picked himself up he found that his left arm was entirely useless. Dr. Holzum who summoned told him that he had suffered a fractured collar bone, and set it. Meanwhile, Fa ther Meinrad was unable to say Mass, and Father Peter was called from Muenster to substitute for a month.

Father Meinrad deserves much praise for or ganizing St. Boniface Parish in so short a time and for accomplishing so much. From the very be ginning, he also had charge of St. Benedict's mission, about 11 miles north-east of Leofeld, which he visited regularly. Prior Bruno Doerfler O.S.B., the successor of Prior Alfred, aware of the splendid services Father Meinrad gave to Leofeld thought it wise to appoint him pastor of the Sacred Heart Parish of Watson and the mission of Engel feld, which needed the hand of a good organizer. Father Meinrad left Leofeld on the last day of December 1906, and was succeeded by Father Leo Ojdowski, O.S.B., who had been ordained priest at Muenster, April 29, 1906. On October 14, 1907 Father Leo was placed in charge of the parish of St. Benedict together with the mission of St. Leo, and Father Matthias Steier came to Leofeld, re maining here, until April, 1923.

A meeting of the parishioners on August 5 1913 discussed the problem of building parochial school and decided to erect one at a cost of about $4,000.00 large enough to includ living quarters of the four sisters who were to con duct it. The building was blessed by Bishop Pascal May 22, 1914. On September 1, the same year the school was opened with the Ursuline Sisters Ursula, Anna, Catherine, Laurentia and Walburga in charge.

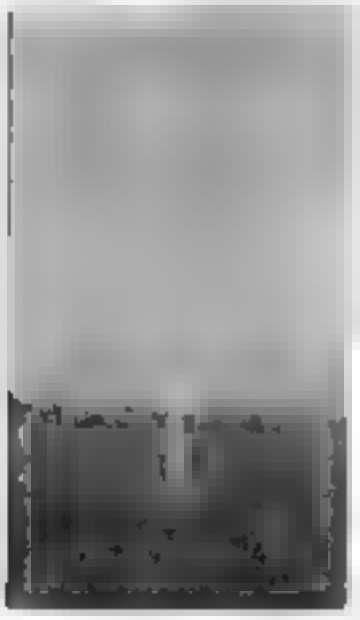
In 1911 the branch-line of the C.N.R. bi passed Leofeld a few miles to the west, and the towns of Bremen and Cudworth sprang up. Quite number of families moved to Cudworth, so that it was deemed advisable to begin a mission at that point. Father Matthias said Mass there once a month until in October 1924 Cudworth received resident pastor.

Father Matthias' successor in Leofeld Father Fridolin Tembreull, O.S.B., who arrived May 3, 1923. During his years as pastor the church was renovated, the parish hall was built and a new parish home erected in 1929. In the summer of 1928 he celebrated his silver jubilee n 1939 he was stricken with cancer and died on June 27, 1939, at St. Cloud, Minnesota. Fat Bruno Schmidt, O.S.B., a member of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, succeeded Fr. Fri dolin until 1942 when he was recalled by his Abbot Father Luke Boeckmann, O.S.B., was then appoint ed, and since the summer of 1947 has also the pastoral care of the Holy Family mission which was established the same year south-east of Leo feld.

In the beginning of September 1942 Father Luke was appointed chaplain of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Humboldt, and was succeeded by Father Matthew.

The Lord has chosen two sons of the Leo feld parish as priests, Fathers Gregory Gasser O.S.B., and Florian Remeberg, O.S.B., while an other son of the Remeberg family, Frater Werner O.S.B., is preparing for the priesthood. St. Au gustine's Parish, Humboldt, also may claim Fath er Gregory, because in later years his mother made her home there. Father Florian celebrated his first solemn High Mass on the feast of Corpus Christ June 8, 1944. The altar was erected in the open Father Gregory was assistant priest, Fathers George and Alfred were deacon and subdeacon. Abbot Severin attended in cappa magna and preached After High Mass the neo-presbyter carried the Blessed Sacrament during the procession, and of ficiated at the solemn Benediction in church.

The following young ladies of the parish of Leofeld dedicated their lives to God in religious communities: Sisters Chrysanthus Duerr, O.S.B Dalia Duerr, O. S. B., Elizabeth Lopinski, O. S. B. Romana Hauer, O.S.B., Tarcisia Kiralinger, O.S.B.,



Gateway to the Colony
This area marks the location of Old Lowfield near Cudworth.

St. Southern School, under construction, 1914.

A church, with the dimensions of a modern-sized cathedral was the first chapel at old Leonard

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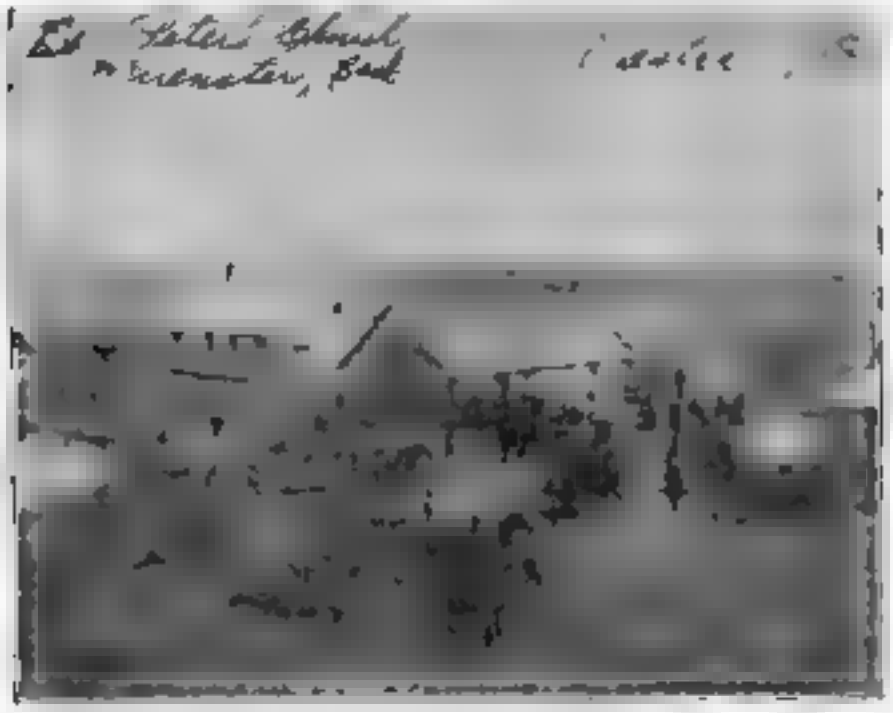
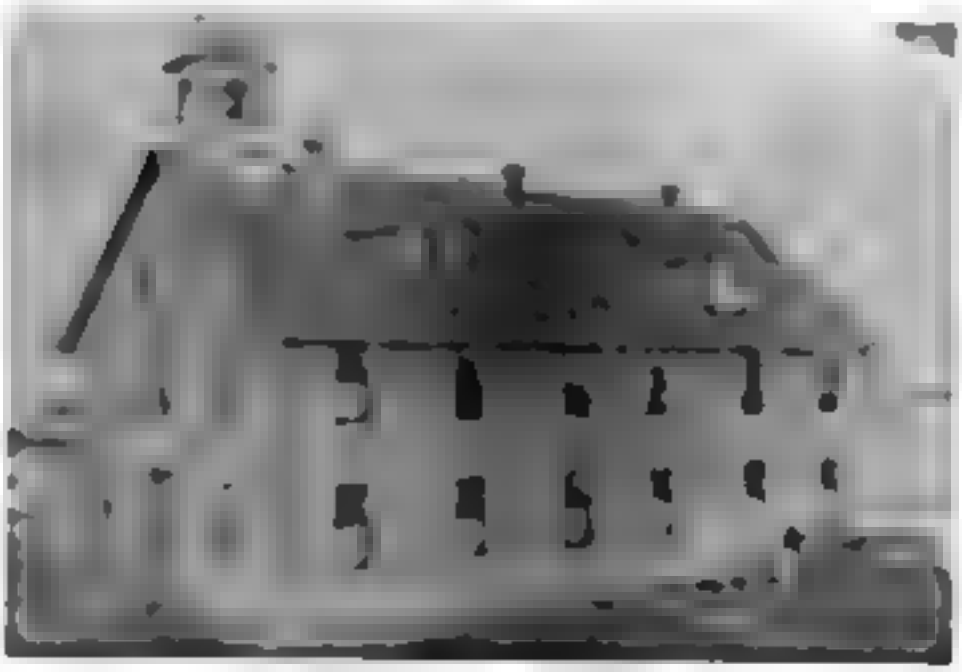
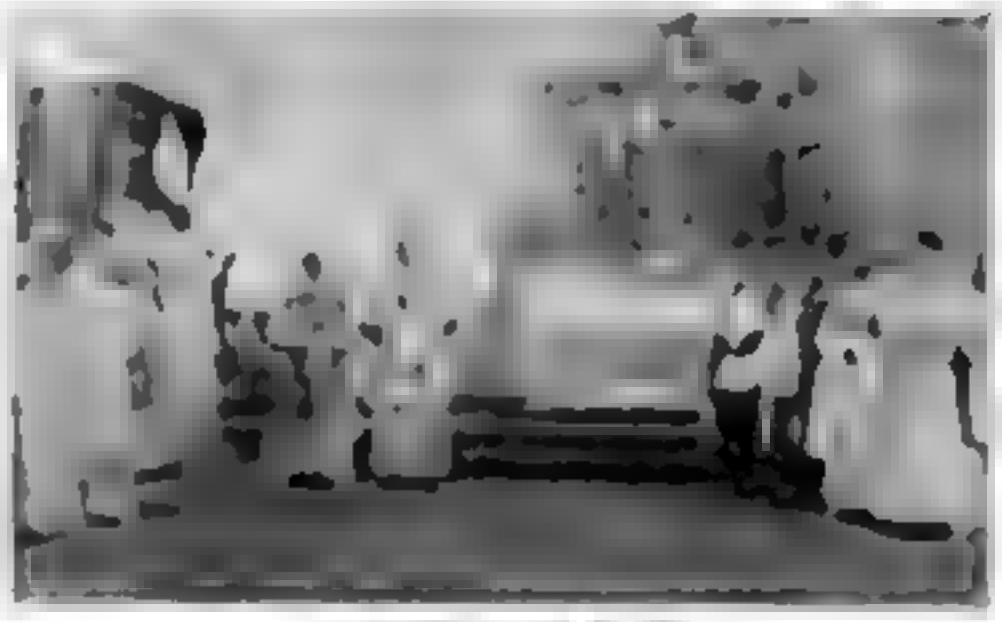
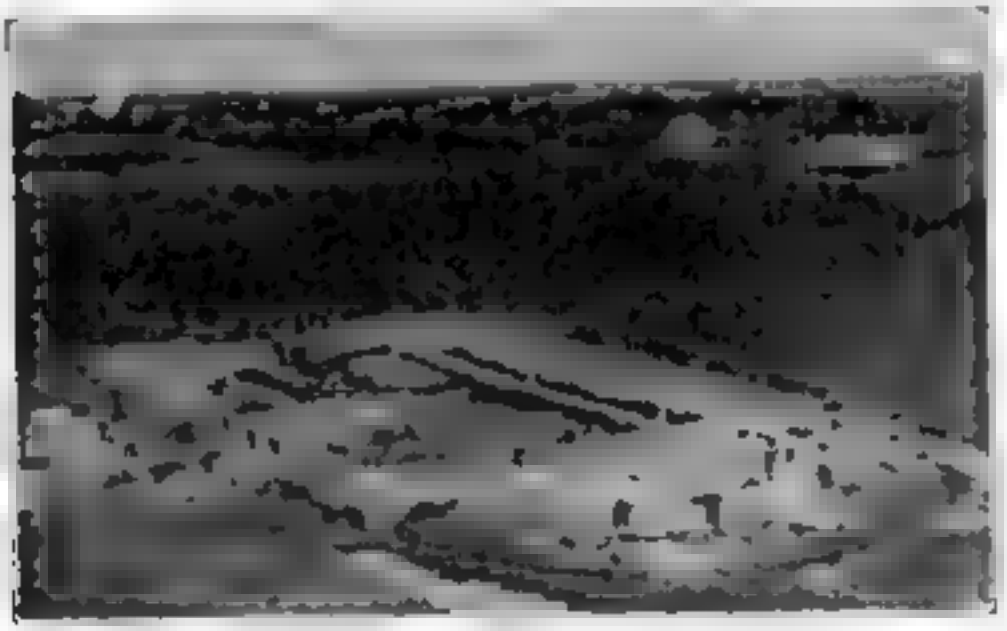


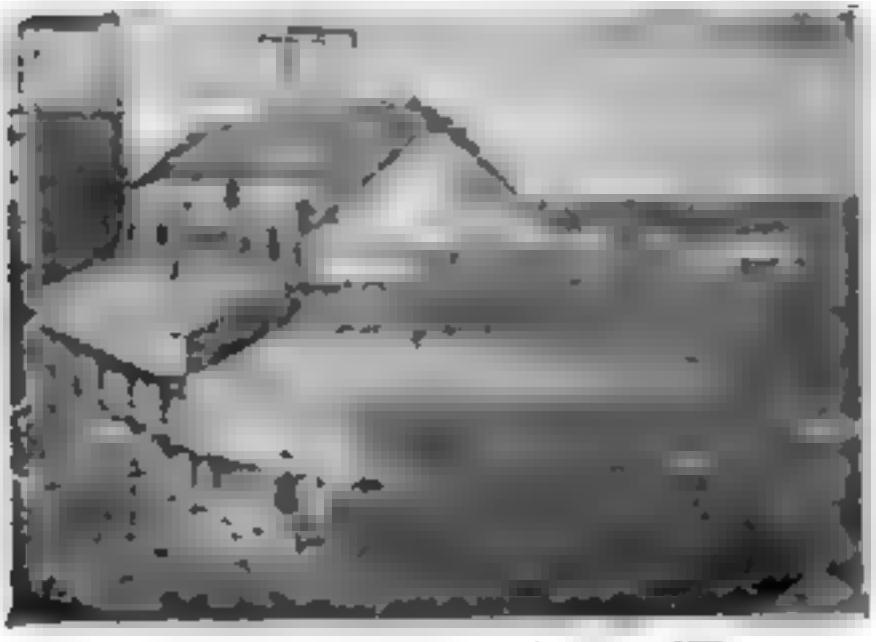
A [illegible] class in 1906 in Lombard. Left to right:
Peter Arnold, Hank Arnold, John Rosenberg, Peter Gass, Pastor Heinrich







Foundation of new St. Peter's Church in 1909



St. Peter's Church in the course of erection ... 1909

St. Peter's Priory and Parish

The Benedictine Fathers arrived at Muenster on the eve of the Ascension, May 21, 1903, and Prior Alfred Wyer said Holy Mass shortly before the first Mass celebrated in the vicinity of the present town of Muenster. Shortly thereafter the community erected the first log cabin which was replaced in June, 1903 by a little frame house to which were added a number of annexes in the course of time. The locality was simply called St. Peter's Monastery. Even when Father John Ba... announced as the first postmaster, it still retained the name St. Peter's Monastery. When later the first store, and a number of dwellings were erected, the name was changed to Muenster after the celebrated city of Muenster in Westphalia, Germany. Muenster (in Latin ...terium") really means monastery, a very appropriate name for the place where the Benedictines established their first monastery in Canada. Holy Mass has been celebrated there every day, during the past fifty years, since that memorable first Mass on Ascension Day, 1903. In the beginning a tent served as the chapel, and the Fathers experienced a real longing for the Eucharistic Lord since there was no church and no tabernacle. Father Peter Windschiegl, who had arrived in the colony at the beginning of June, 1903, in the absence of Prior Alfred, offered the parish Mass June 28. He made an urgent appeal to the people present — between 60 and 70 — to haul logs for the erection of a church to measure 20x40 feet. The people readily responded, and by the middle of September Mass was celebrated for the first time in the log church.

Prior Alfred returned from the United States on July 9, bringing with him Fr. Casimir Cismowski, O.S.B., then still a cleric. On Sunday, July 12, Father John celebrated his first Holy Mass, assisted by Prior Alfred, who preached the festive sermon, Fathers Peter and Rudolph, while Fr. Casimir was master of ceremonies. The celebration was held outside on the south side of the tiny frame building mentioned above.

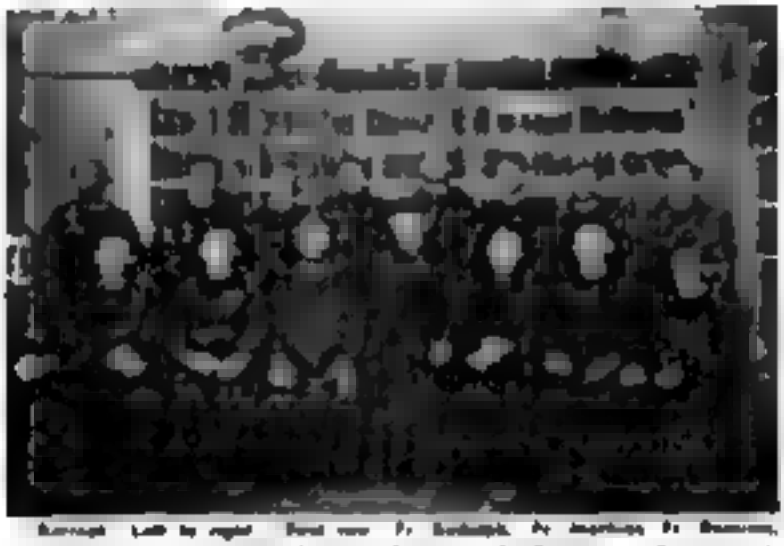
Alfred was not only an excellent preacher, having perfect command of English and German, but was also an outstanding organizer. During the first half of July, 1903, he made trips to other parts of the colony and said Mass for the first time in the present parish of Folda, the log cabin of W. Kreizenbeck, just west of Dead Moose Lake. On July 19, he celebrated the first Mass in the present parish of the Assumption, in the house of L. J. Lundberg, section 32, township 36, range ... Here Messrs. Aug. Moeller, John B. Kraus and Henry Frockage were chosen trustees and a plan picked for the future church which was placed under the patronage of the Blessed V... under the title of her Assumption.

The arrival of Father Dominic Hoffman, O.S.B., July 22, brought new joy to the little community at St. Peter's Monastery. Three days later Prior Alfred drove with him, in a heavy wagon, to the present parish of Annaheim, where Father Dominic was installed as first pastor. At Annaheim both said Mass in the house of Adam Specht, the first Masses said in that territory, on July 26. It was the feast of St. Anne, and the new parish was given the mother of the Blessed Virgin as its patron.

The first settlers in the parish of St. Peter, the town of Humboldt did not yet exist, were John Brinkmeier, Engelbert Ecker, Charles Schaud, the Flory Brothers, the Wigbers Brothers, Anton Farmer, John Musser, Albert Nenzel, Michael Waskowski, Herman Focken, Clem, Kuemper, Jos. Groppe, Barth. Funke, Frank Boehm, G. Muench, Bruno Bock, Peter Schons, Mrs. Lutz and several others.

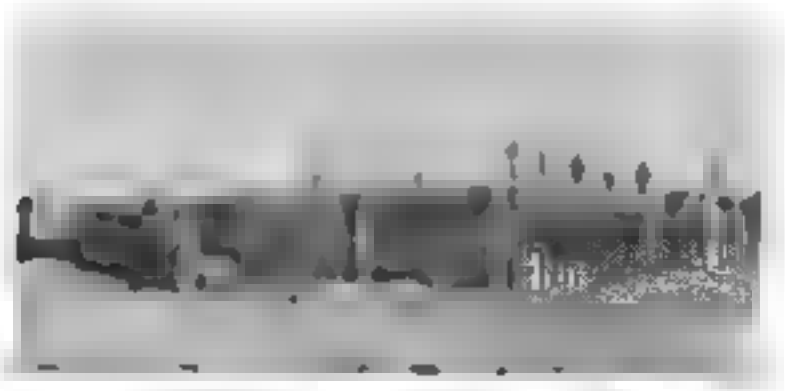
Divine Providence steadily watched over the new Benedictine foundation in Canada, and over St. Peter's Colony. It inspired not only St. John's Abbey to send help repeatedly when this was urgently needed, but it sent aid also from other quarters when least expected. The coming of Father Chrysostom Hoffmann, O.S.B., a member of St. Anselm's Priory, Manchester, New Hampshire, who wished to join St. Peter's Priory and devote his

Opening of Classroom No. 1



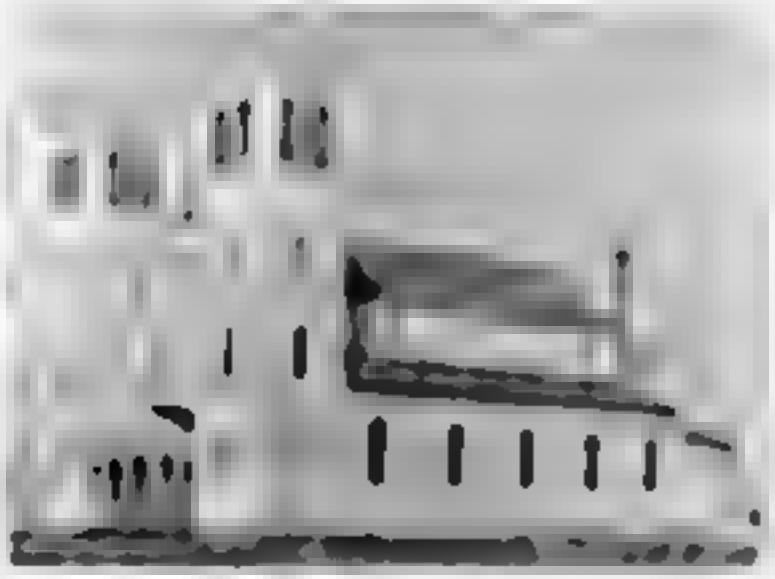
Retreat. Left to right: Front row: Fr. Kavanagh, Fr. Augustine, Fr. Bonaventure, Peter Cooney, Fr. Leander, O.S.B., Fr. Peter, Fr. Stephanus, Fr. Alexander. Back row: Fr. Boniface, Fr. Benedict, Fr. Chrysostom, Fr. Leo, Fr. Joseph Wrobel, Fr. Bernard, Fr. Athanasius, Hochdahl, and Fr. Placid Wolf.

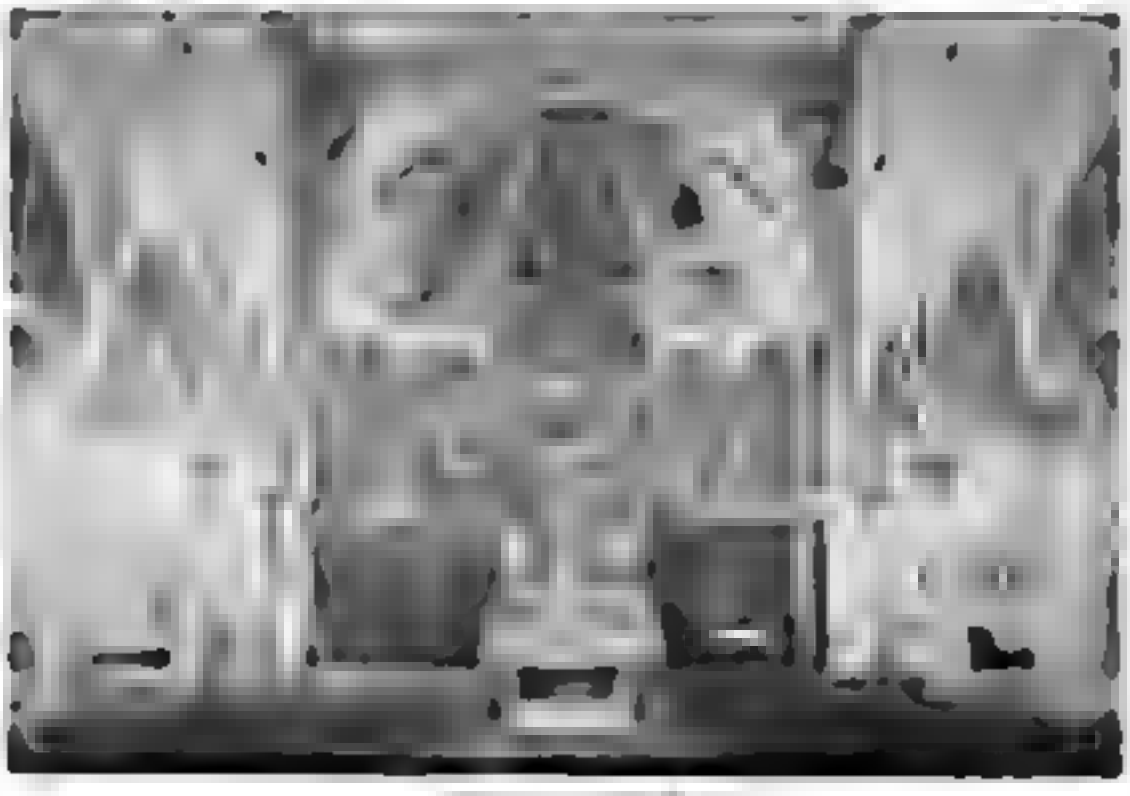
Visit of Abbot Peterus, Abbot-elect of Ampleforth



life to missionary work, may be cited as an example
Alfred immediately granted his request O
July 1, 1903, he was ordained priest by Bishop
Imbec of St Cloud at Browerville Minnesota
and without delay came to Canada, arriving wit-
Father Bruno at Lindberg's home on August 1
time to conduct services on Sunday, August 2
Missionary work had a special appeal for Fathe
Chrysostom, and a missionary he was du
entire fifty years that have passed since his ordin
tion. He visited not only almost all the missions
within St. Peter's Colony but during the ne
days, a number of places outside the colony which
d not be attended regularly by another priest
another priest whom Divine Providence sent
Father Paul Path, formerly a member of th
Salesian Fathers. He arrived at the Priory on Ja
906, was invested in the summer of 907
receiving the name of Father Boniface, and
his vows as a Benedictine on June 24, 1908. Father
Rudolph Palm, O.S.B., was ordained by Bishop
Trobec on June 29, 1904 at St John's Abbey, and
went to Germany for his first solemn Mass. He
eturned to Canada in May 1905 Robert Wickel
a young man, came from Germany to Muenster in
August 1905, and joined the order, receiving the
name of Joseph. He pronounced his vows on Jan
nary 15, 1907 and was ordained at Muenster by
Bishop Pascal on September 18, 1911 Father B
finishing most of his studies at St John
Abbey, came to Canada in the summer of 1905
was ordained priest at Prince Albert by Bishop

Days of extraordinary joy for St Peter's Parish
St Peter's Monastery, Englefeld and the Assump
con Parish were the days of the first visit to these
places by the kind and venerable Bishop Pascal in
August 1905 He arrived at Muenster by train, Au
19 the C.N.R. line had shortly before
been completed — and was given a solemn recep-
don On August 24 the bishop conferred the cler
al tonsure and minor orders on Fr Leo Oplowski,
d on the next day subdeaconship on Frs. Leo and
Casimir On August 26, he blessed the new log
church at Englefeld and confirmed 23 parishioners
On August 20 Frs Leo and Casimir were ordained
in the church at Muenster at a Pontifical
High Mass by the Bishop, after which he conferred
the sacrament of Confirmation on 57 persons
Though the original log church had been lengthen-
ed by a 20 foot frame annex to the east about 50
persons had to stand outside. In the afternoon th
Fathers recited Vespers and sang Compline, after
which the Bishop officiated at solemn benediction
On August 23 he went to Dead Moose Lake and
blessed the log Assumption Church there on the
following day The good bishop was so overjoyed
with what he saw that tears trickled down his
cheeks. He preached a touching sermon at each one
of the three places visited, and remained
colony 15 days. Fathers Leo and Casimir were or
dained priests by Bishop Pascal on his second visit
to Muenster April 29, 1906





The Order of St Benedict Incorporated

The man whom Divine Providence placed at the head of St Peter's Colony, St Peter's Priory, guide in spiritual matters was Prior Alfred He was exemplary monk, an accomplished preacher excellent pastor, an organizer with outstanding abilities, and was revered by all who came in contact with him. His chief concern natural for the spiritual welfare of his community and the settlers, but he was also intent upon the temporal weal of his people To safeguard the future of the Benedictine Order in Canada and to give it legal standing, he approached the Fifth Legislative Assembly of the North West Territories — Mr became — and requested the legislature to incorporate the Order of St Benedict. Assent to the petition given on October 8, 1904. This charter is regarded as a very valuable instrument and appeared in the "Ordinances of the North West Territories, 1904" on pages 242 244 Chapter 31. The following is the complete wording of the Act

An Ordinance to incorporate the Order of St Benedict

Assented to October 8, 1904

Whereas Alfred Mayer Matthias Steger, Benedict Steigenberger John Baltrey, Peter Windschieg Rudolph Palm, Dominic Hofmann, Meinrad Seitzmann and Chrysostom Hoffmann on behalf of the association of ecclesiastics known as The Order of St Benedict have by the petition represented that the said association of which they are members has existed since and before the beginning of the of Our Lord, 1903, in the North-West Territories having for its object the establishing and carrying on of missions the erection and conduct of schools, colleges, seminaries and churches and that the said association now has in operation in the said North-West Territories several missions has already laid plans for and will start immediately the establishing of certain schools, missions, colleges, seminaries, churches and a monastery and proposes to establish and carry on others

Whereas the members of the said association prayed that their said association may be vested their prayer

Therefore the Lieutenant Governor by the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Territories enacts as follows

1. The said Alfred Mayer, Matthias Steger Benedict Steigenberger, John Baltrey Peter Windschiegl, Rudolph Palm, Dominic Hofmann, Meinrad Seitzmann and Chrysostom Hoffmann and said association of ecclesiastics in the North-West thereof shall be and they are hereby constituted and declared to be a body politic and corporate by the style and title of The Order of St Benedict hereinafter called "The Corporation

2. All lands, tenements and hereditaments and property real and personal and all schools missions colleges, seminaries, churches and a monastery belonging to and used, held, occupied and possessed or enjoyed now and at the time of the passing of this Ordinance by the said association shall be and the same are hereby declared to be vested in the corporation for the purposes hereof

3. The corporation may from time to time and at all times hereafter acquire as purchasers or donees by gift or testamentary bequest or devise or from any lawful source for the benefit of the ation any lands, tenements or hereditaments and personal property in the North-West Territories or any part of the Dominion of Canada and the same or any part thereof from time to time may sell or exchange, mortgage lease let or otherwise dispose of and with the proceeds arising therefrom from time to time acquire other lands, tenements and hereditaments and other property, real and personal for the use and purposes of the cor

4. The revenues, issues and profits of all property real and personal held by the corporation shall be appropriated and applied solely to the

maintenance of the members of the corporation [illegible] lishing and the construction and repair of buildings and the acquisition of property, real and personal requisite for the purpose of the corporation and for the advancement of charity and benevolen

5. It shall be lawful for the corporation to make bylaws, rules, orders and regulations not contrary to the laws of the Territories for the government and proper administration of the affairs and property of the corporation and to repeal and amend the same from time to time

6. The head office of the corporation shall be at St. Peter's Monastery or such other place in the North-West Territories as may from time to time be determined by the bylaws of the corporation

7. The said corporation is hereby authorized to establish a college in the North-West Territories

8. The said corporation shall be governed by a president, secretary and procurator which officers shall constitute a board of trustees and the same officers shall also always act as trustees of said college

9. The superior of the Order of St. Benedict in the North West Territories shall ex officio be president of the board of trustees and the secretary and procurator shall be appointed by the said president

10. A vice-president of the college may be [illegible] pointed by the president to act in his stead and to perform the duties of the president in his absence

11. The said Order shall have power and authority by statute or bylaw to constitute and establish a college or colleges and to provide for the endowment of the same and the appointment of professors, tutors and officers in connection therewith

12. The said Order shall have power and authority from time to time by statute or bylaw to make such changes, alterations and amendments as may be deemed proper in the constitution of the said college or colleges so constituted and established

13. Nothing herein shall have the effect or be construed to have the effect of rendering all or any of the several persons hereinbefore mentioned or all or any of the said members of the corporation [illegible] other person whatsoever individually liable or accountable for or by reason of any debt or obligation incurred or entered into for or on account of the corporation or for or on account of or in respect of any matter or thing whatsoever relating to the corporation

14. Nothing herein contained shall effect or construed to effect the rights of His Majesty his heirs or successors or any other person or persons or of any body politic or corporate

St Peter's Bote and The Prairie Messenger

Prior Alfred recognized the value and importance of the Catholic Press and knew what results the publications of the Catholic Settlement Society produced in bringing settlers into St. Peter's Colony. He saw the necessity of imparting sound advice and good counsel to his colonists, of furthering their interests, of telling them the news of the Church and of the world, of protecting them from danger from within and without, of regularly communicating with them more or less personally and of letting the relatives of the colonists in the countries from which they had emigrated know how the newly founded St. Peter's Colony was progressing. A Catholic newspaper, edited in the language most of the settlers understood, was bound to be a great unifying force for its people. Hence, [illegible] on February 11 1904 less than a year after the arrival of the Benedictines in Canada, the St. Peter's Bote, the only Catholic newspaper in the German language in the whole Dominion of Canada made its appearance. It was published in Winnipeg by the "Nordwesten" and Prior Alfred himself was the first editor. The difficulties were almost insurmountable owing to the fact that the editor resided at Rosthern, while the paper was published 600 miles away.

In June 1904, Father Benedict, who served St. Odilo's parish, organized by the Benedictines at Rosthern, was appointed editor. He remained editor until the middle of January 1905, when Father Bruno returned to Canada and took this post, residing at the parish of the Holy Ghost, Winnipeg. When the new printing office was completed at Muenster, and the necessary type setters had been secured, the St. Peter's Bote was edited and published at Muenster, still under the

editorship of Father Bruno. The first issue printed at the Priory carried the date of September 5, 1905.

After the five year term of office of Prior Alfred had been completed and Father Bruno was elected as his successor, April 26, 1906, Father Benedict was again appointed editor, but already on August 20, 1906 was succeeded by Fr. Peter who remained editor till November 20, 1922, when the printing office was moved to the new monastery southeast of Muenster. Father Subprior Joseph Sittenauer O.S.B., a former member of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, who had joined the community at Muenster in 1919, then became the editor. After twelve years of untiring work, feeling the weight of years, he laid down the pen and his stead Father Peter was again appointed editor remaining at the helm until the paper was discontinued July 31, 1947, thus bringing the period of his work to the record total of 27 years and months.

Due to legislation during the First World War the St. Peter's Bote was compelled to appear in English from October 1918, to December 1919. In the course of time when so many of the pioneers who spoke and read German passed away, subscriptions gradually dwindled, for the younger generation was not sufficiently conversant with the language of its forefathers. So it was inevitable that the Bote joined the ranks of other defunct language papers.

However, the Benedictines had not lost sight of the importance of the press, and so as early as May 1922 an English weekly had been founded, the St. Peter's Messenger, with Father Ignatius Groh, O.S.B., as editor. He was a member of St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, assisting at Muenster a short time. Rev. Lewis Gwynn, a secular priest, since deceased, succeeded Father Ignatius for a brief period. Father Cosmas Krumpelmann O.S.B., was editor from November 1924 to September 1926, when Father John Hable O.S.B. placed in charge. To avoid confusion with the Bote, and to indicate the Messenger's wider circulation, the name was changed to *The Prairie Messenger* shortly after Father John became editor. When he became pastor of Marysburg and Pilger in June of 1931, Father Wilfrid Hergott was appointed editor and still holds that office.

Prior Bruno — Second Prior — First Abbot

Since Prior Alfred had been appointed by the Holy See for a five year term, it was necessary for the Priory, at the expiration of this period, to have an election. Right Rev. Abbot Peter Engel, the Abbot of St. John's Abbey, who then was the Abbot President of the American Cassinese Congregation presided at the election, April 26, 1906. The capitulars elected Father Bruno Doetzer, O.S.B., who already had done so much for St. Peter's Monastery and St. Peter's Colony. Prior Alfred remained as superior until the Holy See confirmed the election, June 6, 1906. Three days later bishop Pascal visited St. Peter's Priory — it was his second and raised the two deacons, Fathers Leo and Casimir, to the priesthood, April 29, 1906. Father Leo celebrated his first solemn High Mass at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, his home, while Father Casimir celebrated his on Corpus Christi day, June 14, 1906, in the open air, near a beautiful grove northwest of the monastery buildings at which Prior Alfred preached the festive sermon. Before Prior Alfred returned to his own Abbey he appointed Father Peter to the office of superior. Though absent from his former place of labor, Prior Alfred always took a lively interest in the welfare of St. Peter's Priory and the Colony. In July 1918 he visited the Colony and preached in Muenster, Engelfeld, Watson and Annaheim. He again visited the Colony in November 1921, and the following year on August 8 attended the silver jubilee of Father Dominic in Humboldt, giving the festive sermon. In the late fall, 1926 he paid a final visit to the monastery and conducted the annual retreat for the Fathers. During the last years of his life he suffered from cancer and died on May 29, 1929 at St. Cloud, Minnesota, aged 71.

One of the first undertakings of Prior Bruno was the erection of a new monastery, a two story frame building with chapel, parlor, library and refectory on the first floor, and dormitory for the Fathers and two spacious attic rooms. The contractor was Caspar Waleries of Leofeld, and the building was completed November 1906. The kitchen, refectory and cellar, as well as some of the walls of the first monastery frame building to the

he new building were still utilized, the latter by the domestics and the refectory by the Fathers who had to walk over, in rain or sunshine for their meals. One can hardly realize how happy the Fathers were, when after so many privations, they had a real house at last. Small stoves were used to supply the necessary warmth for each A little belfry on the south side topped off the building, and a bell thereon called the Fathers to divine service. Both buildings were later razed the first frame monastery in 1924 the second in 1948. The bell was transferred to the belfry of the new Abbey building, southeast of Muenster is still in use. From November 1921 to the of 1947 the second monastery building served the pastors of St. Peter's Parish as parish house.

New churches, both frame buildings, in 1901

of St. Joseph at Fulda. Father Bernard ordained priest by Bishop Pascal in the cathedral at Prince Albert, May 24, 1906. Father Clovis Mol a secular priest was ordained at M April 5, 1910, this being the first time Holy Orde tered in the new church. Father Mathe Monsignor a few years ago. In 1951 he resigned as pastor of St. Hippolyte, in the of Prince Albert, because of ill health and returned

St. Peter's Priory was honored by the visit of Rt. Rev. Hildebrand de Hemptinne, O.S.B. the Abbot Primate of the whole Benedictine Or October 9'0. The Abbot Primate was on of all the monasteries of the order, and was highly pleased with the work the Benedictines had accomplished in Canada thus far.

During Bishop Pascal's visit in June 1910 he visited nineteen of the twenty-three established parishes and missions, dedicated eight churc blessed four bells and conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 447 persons. The Catholic popu lation of the Colony in 1910 was estimated at 8,000 souls. Regular services were held in all parish es and missions. Father Dominic resided at An m. Father Ildephonse at Fulda, Father Mat thias at Leofeld, Father Benedict at Hoodoo, Father Rudolph at Humboldt, Father Chrysostom at Bru no and Father Bernard at Watson. A number of missions were attended by Fathers from the Prie

the year 1911 must have special significance. The time had come when Prior Bruno and his com unity thought it opportune to petition the Hol See to have the Priory raised to the dignity of Abbey. The Holy Father Pope Pius X w was beatified on June 3, 1951, graciously granted the petition. Under rescript of the Sacred Congre gation of Religious dated June 6, 1911 the Abbo Primate Hildebrand de Hemptinne was authori zed to have St. Peter's Priory raised to the rank of an Abbey and after consulting the Right Rev Abbot Peter Engel, the President of the American Cassinese Congregation, appointed Prior Bruno Doerfler its first Abbot. The blessing of Abbot Bruno, October 18, 1911, was a solemn fun Bishop Pascal was the celebrant of the Pontifica High Mass and the ritual followed was very much like the consecration of a bishop. The Provincial of the Oblate Fathers, Father Grandin, of Edmon ton acted as Presbyter Assistant. Fathers I Kowalski O. M. I., of Winnipeg and F. Wood cutter of Moose Jaw, Sask. as deacons of h P. Boor O.M.I. and Theodore Schweers, O.M.I s deacon and subdeacon of the Mass, and the Right Rev. Abbots Peter Engel and Innocent Wolf the latter from Atchison, Kansas, were assistants to Abbot Bruno, while Father Hilary Doerfler O. S. B. of St. John's Abbey, a brother of Abbot Bruno, acted as his chaplain. Father Alcuin Deutsch, O.S.B. who afterwards became Abbot St. John's, was master of Ceremonies. In the after Abbot Bruno officiated at Pontifical Vespers Benediction. Mr. John Schwinghammer o Engelfeld was organist for the occasion. Bishop Pascal commented after the ceremony "This so lemn function gave me the greatest jo made bishop." The relations between Bishop Pas cal and Prior Alfred and Abbot Bruno bore at a times the stamp of the greatest harmony and mu tual understanding. Time and time again, the saintly Bishop visited his beloved Benedictines sometimes to confirm, sometimes to confer Hol Orders, sometimes to bless a new institution, some times just to visit the Monastery. Having been an Indian missionary for many years, he enjoyed go it with Father Casimir or Father Peter t hunt ducks, and he would not waste shells b ting holes in the air. He also demonstrated how

the Indians fried their ducks. He appointed Prior Bruno vicar general of the diocese of Prince Albert and after the Prior became Abbot administrator of the diocese in the bishop's absence, and obtained permission from the Holy See for him to

On September 27 1911 Father Joseph Wickel O.S.B., who had joined the community in 1906 and had completed his theological studies at the Monastery, was ordained, and celebrated his first solemn High Mass at Watson, October 1, the feast of the Holy Rosary.

Another important event was the arrival of three Sisters of St. Elizabeth from Klagenfurt Austria, May 14, 1911. The need of a hospital was great and Divine Providence sent the Sisters. More space will be given to their charitable work u

On August 17, 1911, Bishop Pascal laid the cornerstone for the new church at Bruno. In Humboldt, where regular divine service was conducted by Father Rudolph since the fall of 1905, a substantial brick church was erected in 1912 and solemnly blessed by Bishop Pascal on August 10, 1913. A new frame church was built the same year under the direction of Father Benedict at St. Benedict, (old St. Benedict), and blessed by Bishop Pascal on May 21, 1914. The same day he blessed two new bells for the new church.

In 1914 a two storey building, 42 x 44 feet which was to serve as a parish school and dwelling for the sisters was erected at Dead Moose Lake (Marysburg), and occupied by Mother Clara and Sisters Walburga and Vincentia. It was erected under the direction of Father Casimir, who at the opening of the school, January 7, 1915, became first resident pastor. He lived in the home of J. B. Kraus until the rectory was completed in the summer of 1915. The combined school and Sisters dwelling was the temporary mother house of the Ursuline Nuns from 1916 to November 1919, when the Nuns established their permanent home at Bruno. The building is still

A new church was projected by the parishioners of Willmont in October 1915, and work started in April 1916. The frame building, with complete basement was sufficiently advanced be

[illegible] of 1916, so that services could be held therein.

Excavation for a larger parish school at Muenster was begun during the summer of 1916. The two class-room building, joined to the Sis[illegible] residence, had a complete basement, and there [illegible] room to house boarders on the top floor. During the winter classes were taught in the basement and the building was completed in 1917.

A parish house was erected under the [illegible] vision of Father Joseph Wickel at Carmel. At that time the church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel stood on the little hill to the northeast of the town, and Father Joseph attended the parish from Engelfeld. The church at Engelfeld had been built in 1912 and on December 15 of the sa[illegible] Bishop Pascal blessed its four bells. The frame church at Annaheim had been erected in 1909.

A man who did an incalculable amount of good in the various parishes and missions was Father George Scheffold, O.S.B., a member of St. John's Abbey. During the years 1913, 1914 and 1915 he visited practically every parish and mission and gave them the benefit of a mission. His method of expounding the great truths of religion was simple and impressive. After these first years he returned frequently to preach missions in the Colony, so that he must have been known to most people. He died from a heart attack while driving his car from St. Cloud to St. John's, Minn., June 11, 1937.

Bishop Pascal celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his episcopal consecration at Prince Albert, June

attending. A month later he again visited the Colony from August to September, and conferred the sacrament of Confirmation in seventeen parishes and missions. At Bruno he confirmed, 46; Leofeld 40; St. Leo, 21; St. Benedict, 35; Willmont, 30; Carmel, 22; Humboldt, 96; Marysburg, 46; Pilger 8; Lake Lenore 52; Annaheim, 72; St. Gregor, 1; Muenster 27; Enecfeld 21; Watson 31; and St. Oswald, 13. At the latter mission he blessed the church and bell. At Marysburg, August 15, the patronal feast of the parish, he celebrated a Pontifical Highmass. On August 13, he blessed the cemetery of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth at Humboldt. Six weeks before the visit of the Bishop the

church at Annaheim was struck by lightning, but

brenner, Louis Schober, and Jos. Laugen was saved from burning. The 102 foot tower was hit ignited in two places

To provide the growing parishes and missions of St. Peter's Colony with priests was not ask, but the blessing of God was not

fully permitting Fathers Dominic and Meinrad to Canada in 1903, and Father Odepho 1905. When the latter returned to Minnesota August 1912, on account of ill health, he was replaced by Father Lawrence Steinkogler, O.S.B. From April 21, 1909 to August 19, 1909 while Father Dominic was disabled by illness, Abbot Peter sent Father Hugo Tell, to take his place and superintend the construction of the church at Annaheim. Abbot Peter also permitted Frater Matthew Minhet, who had finished his novitiate at St. John's Abbey 1917) to join the Benedictines in Canada and shortly after his arrival at Muenster. Abbot Bruno conferred clerical tonsure and the Minor Orders on him. He was ordained by Bishop Ovid Charlebois, O.M.I., at The Pas, Manitoba, March 27, 1921. Father Peter Fischer, a member of St. Vincent Archabbey, Pennsylvania, came to Muenster in 1913, and assisted in the care of souls for about a year.

Toward the middle of May 1917 Father Leo who for a number of years had been subprior was appointed pastor of Bruno with the mission of Dana and St. Bede, while Father Chrysostom, who had been in charge of Bruno since the founding of the parish, was appointed subprior and pastor of St. Peter's Parish. During his spare time at Bruno Father Chrysostom had planted hundreds of green trees which are still a living memorial to the place where he labored tirelessly for fourteen years. One of the first works undertaken by Father Leo was the erection of a permanent parish house, built of interlocking tiles obtained from the Bruno Clay Works. It was ready before the cold weather set in. His next project was the building of a new parish school. The cornerstone was blessed by Abbot Bruno in September 1918, and it was sufficiently completed to be solemnly blessed by Bishop Pascal on March 2, 1919. Father Leo heartily endorsed the plan that the Ursuline Nuns locate at Bruno. Excavation for the new Convent began in the fall of 1918 and continued in the spring of 1919. Chas. Bonas was given the contract for the new Convent.

In February 1917 Mr. Berthold Imhoff of St. Walburg, Saskatchewan, donated two beautiful paintings to the Abbey, one of St. Peter and the other of St. Benedict. Mr. Imhoff had decorated many churches in the United States, while living at Reading, Pennsylvania, before coming to St. Walburg, Sask., a rather isolated district in those days, where he also erected his studio. On January 5, 1919, he visited the Abbey and

Abbot Bruno, during the course of which he offered to decorate the sanctuary of St. Peter's Church with eighty of his paintings free of charge, an offer which the Abbot certainly could not refuse. Work started on May 12. In his spare moments Abbot Bruno mounted the scaffolding to watch the artist intense interest. The St. Peter's Bote mented May 14, 1919: "We may rest assured that when his (Mr. Imhoff's) work is completed, St. Peter's Church will be a gem among the churches = St. Peter's Colony."

From October 1918 until the spring of 1919 Spanish Influenza took a terrible toll. Almost every family was stricken, and many a young life snuffed out. The priests and doctors were on sick calls day and night. Prior Peter, though not in charge of a parish at that time, administered the last rites of the Church to 46 patients from October 17, 1918 until the end of the year. The hospital at Humboldt was so crowded that an emergency hospital was set up in the public school building. School were closed as a precautionary measure and the bodies of the deceased were not allowed to be taken to church. Priests and Sisters contracted the disease, but fortunately, all recovered. It was a terrible visitation, and the thought of it even after thirty years, brings a shudder of horror

Volksverein

Germany's great statesman of the nineteenth century, the renowned Ludwig Windthorst, in an address at the Catholic Convention (Katholikentag) at Bochum in 1889, coined the statement "Whoever controls the younger generation controls the future." The Plenary Council of Quebec held in 1909 at which all the bishops of Canada including the superior of the Benedictines in Saskatchewan, were present, stressed the necessity and supreme importance of the Catholic children receiving their education in Catholic Schools, whenever possible. They cited with emphasis the words of Pope Leo XIII in the Encyclical "Affari vos," December 1897 addressed to the Canadian Episcopate in which among other salutary admonitions

struction in schools which either ignore or of set purpose combat, the Catholic religion the teachers must be of the Catholic faith: no other reading or text-books than those approved by the Bishop may be employed, and the fullest freedom must be allowed in the organization and conducting of schools, so that the entire system of learning teaching may be in exact conformity and agreement with the profession of the Catholic name, and all the obligations it involves." Pope Pius X. in a letter to the Canadian Episcopate dated July 10, 1911, said: "You, Venerable Brethren, and all who are charged with the care of souls are obliged to watch carefully that religious instruction in the elementary schools be never wanting, but that it be imparted daily at set hours and in such manner that the children will not only be imbued with proper knowledge but also with genuine love for the Church their mother and the

In many countries of the world the school question is one of the thorniest problems. To find a satisfactory solution for the school question was also a difficult problem for the settlers of St. Peter's Colony. Most of them came from German Catholic centers in the United States where they had received their training in parochial schools. In 1914 there were three parochial schools in and around Leofeld, one at Bruno, one at Wilhelmsfeld, one at Pilger, two in the Fulda district, one at Marysburg, one at Muenster and one north of Muenster. Father John acted as the first schoolmaster at Muenster, Father Chrysostom at Bruno, and Father Rudolph at Humboldt. Later a Catholic separate school was organized at Humboldt and another at Watson. In country places where there was no church, public schools were established. Since parochial schools had to be supported by voluntary contributions, it was no easy matter to finance them and to staff them with first class teachers.

Here again Divine Providence intervened and supplied the chief centres of St. Peter's Colony with excellent teachers. Ursuline Nuns from Germany, members of a teaching Order, some of whom had already had charge of the elementary school in St. Joseph's Parish at Winnipeg, heeded the urgent pleadings of Abbot Bruno, and in 1913 consented to establish a branch of their Order in St. Peter's Colony.

Man is a social being. We therefore need not wonder that there are so many unions, associations and societies all over the world. It is but natural that people of the same faith, of the same tongue wish to associate and unite. All the pioneers of St. Peter's Colony who fifty years ago shared the same privations and hardships tell us of the happiness they enjoyed when visitors came along or stayed over night with them in their tents, log or sod houses, narrating their experiences. All were like a large family helping one another, sharing with each other their scanty meals and provisions.

To foster the family spirit and extend it over the whole province of Saskatchewan and beyond Prior Bruno, already in 1908, conceived the idea of inviting the German Catholics to a big rally (a Katholikentag). This first Katholikentag in Canada, a small imitation of the great Conventions of Catholics in Germany and the United States (the Central-Verein), was held at Muenster, July 29, 1908. Prior Bruno welcomed the visitors. The speakers were: Father Maurus, O.S.B., of Cold Spring, Minn., Father Nelz, O.M.I., Father Schwehius, O.M.I., Father Funke, O.M.I. of Grayson, Sask.,

Father Brabender, O.M.I. of Saskatoon, Father Steiner, O.M.I., of Winnipeg, Professor Kramer Regina, Father Meinrad of Watson, and Father Hilland, O.M.I., of Winnipeg. Karl Meyer of Muenster was Chairman of the first Katholikentag.

The Katholikentag, at which Bishop Pascal the Archbishop of Regina, the Abbot of Muenste or some other prelate pontificated, became a regular annual feature. I places; in 1909 and 1913 in Winnipeg; 1910 and 1914 in Humboldt, 1911 and 1912 in Regina; later in Muenster, Regina, Lake Lenore, also in St Joseph's Colony in the western part of Saskatchewan. At the Katholikentag in Winnipeg, July 1 909 the Volksverein for the German Catholics in Canada (VDCK) was founded and 38 members and their fee of $1.00. Father Joseph Cordes, O.M.I., pastor of St Joseph's Church, Winnipeg president Anton Tilly, vice-president and treasurer, and Father P. Habitz, O.M.I. secretar

tes for the Verein. The Volksver
pamphlets for the instruction of
and keep up contact with them. T
first pamphlet to be published in the Ge

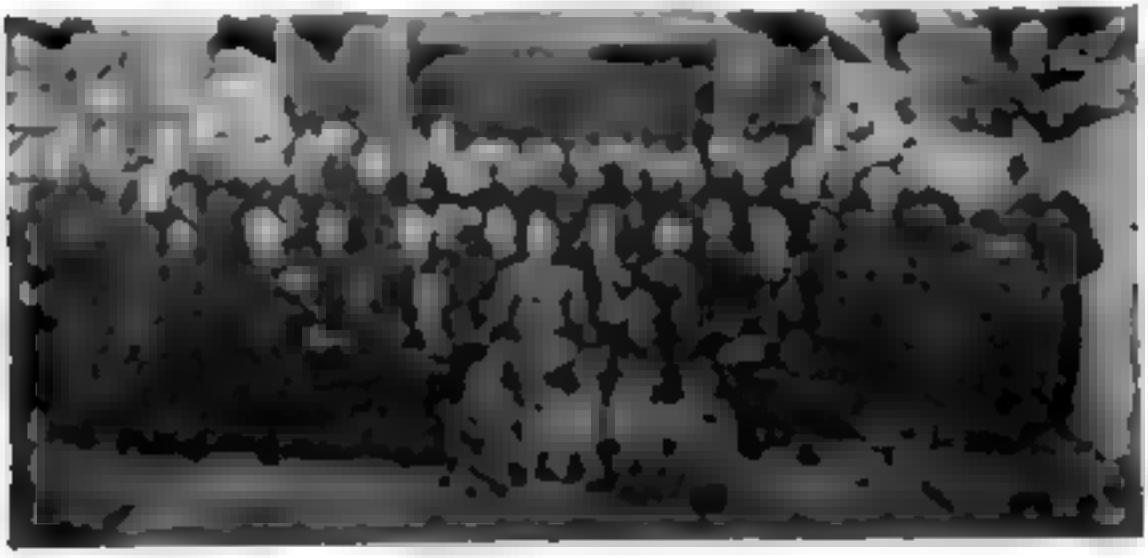
English and Polish language was the ver
tive speech of L. Erk of Gretna
at the Katholikentag. This discussion of vital ques
tions of special interest for the German Catholics
as kept up for many years. The first World War

sumed after the close of the war, especially du
ng the years when the indefatigable Father
ksterd O.M.I., was the Volksverein's immigration
Abbot Bruno was one of the most
ong the activity of the V

one of its officials. After his demise the association
lost much of its prestige and when Father Kier
dorf passed away it suffered another serious shock.

A few years after Abbot Bruno's death Father
General Secretary of the Volksverein and General
Secretary of the Immigration Department of the

extraordinary ability, and played an important part
the Volksverein. He remained in these offices
his death in 1937. Before coming to Canada
in 1920 he had been a military chaplain in Lor

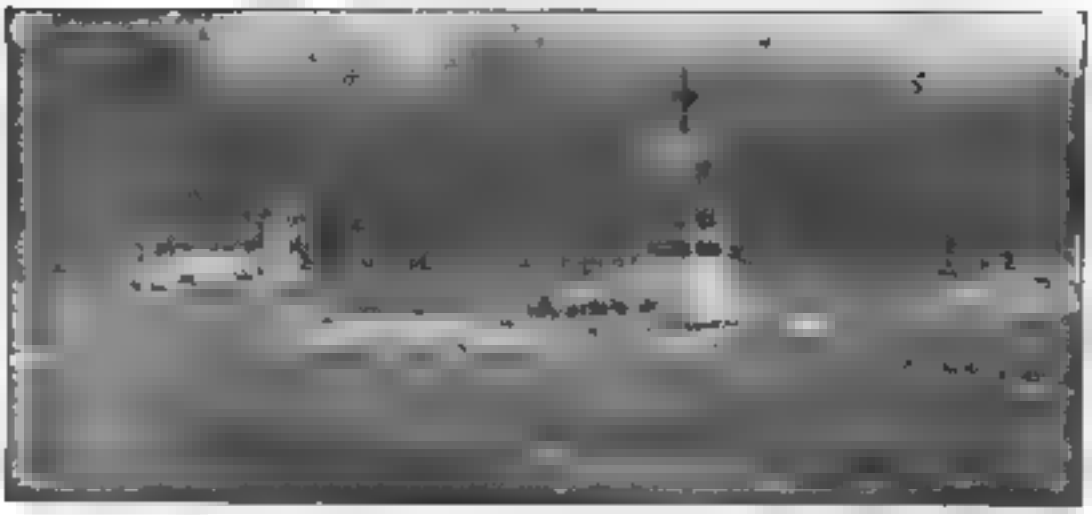


guyon, France, during World War I. As head of the Volksverein in Western Canada he visited practically every Catholic German center and delivered splendid addresses to the people. As General Secretary for Immigration he was instrumental in bringing thousands of German settlers into Canada. These he located in German Catholic communities. He met with many a painful incident in this work, but these did not deter him from doing what he considered to be right. He looked upon his work as a most important task of a Catholic Father Kierdorf worked indefatigably and literally wore himself out doing good for others. Few men accomplished more. After a serious operation in St. Joseph's Hospital, Winnipeg, he died on August 27, 1931. Funeral services were held at St. Charles, Manitoba, in the presence of Archbishop Sinnott, Abbot Severin, and many priests and people. On the same day Father Marcellus celebrated a solemn Requiem High Mass in the Cathedral at Muenster for the repose of his soul.

The last general Katholikentag in St. Peter's Colony was held at Muenster July 19 and 20, 1933. It was the silver jubilee year of the Verein. Bishop Joseph H. Prud'homme of Prince Albert celebrated the Pontifical High Mass and preached in German and English. He was assisted by Fathers Marcellus and Leonard as deacon and subdeacon. Fathers Daoust of Bellevue, Sask., and Xavier deacons of honor. Abbot Severin's assistants were Fathers P. Hilland, O.M.I., of Allan and Henry Metzger of Kronau. At the mass meeting that afternoon a large gathering heard addresses by Abbot Severin, Fathers Marcellus, Paul Hilland, O.M.I., A. Schaller, O.M.I., H. Metzger and Charles Sauner of Odessa. In the evening the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Sodalities staged a drama in the College auditorium. Abbot Severin celebrated a Pontifical Requiem High Mass on the next day, July 20. Father Peter was assistant priest, Fathers Leonard and Xavier deacon and subdeacon. Fathers H. Metzger and John Fuchs, O.M.I., of Macklin, deacons of honor. Father James Schweitzius, O.M.I., preached at the Mass. During the afternoon Father Peter reviewed the activities of the Volksverein during the past twenty-five years. In his address he answered the question, "What are the accomplishments of the Volksverein?" He said, "During the last twenty-five years the Volksverein of German Catholics has put in action Catholic Action, so highly recommended by the Holy Father and so dear to the heart of Christ. In thousands of sermons, addresses, conferences, circulars and circular letters, pamphlets and articles in the Catholic Press it has advocated and practiced Catholic Action. The Volksverein was ever intent to deepen the faith of its members and make them good soldiers of Christ. Each Katholikentag was a staunch Credo, an open profession of our holy faith, to bind its members with strong cords to God, to our Holy Father and the Bishops and priests of the Church. Love of God and love of our neighbor were the main motives. The Volksverein tried to imbue its members with the teachings of Christ and Catholic principles that must pervade our whole life, be it in the church, in the family, in business, in the workshop, in the field or public life. Like apostles men like Father Bourion, O.M.I., Father Funke, O.M.I., Father Brabender, O.M.I., Father Schweers, O.M.I., Father Blank, S.J., Father Meyer, O.M.I., Father Ueberberg, O.M.I., Father Kierdorf, O.M.I., Abbot Bruno, O.S.B., Mr. Hauser, Mr. Hargarten, Mr. Webrens, Mr. Benz, Mr. Leboldus, and others worked and labored for the one goal: Catholic Action. It all was work for God and work for our neighbor. Their sacrifices were the more precious, because they were performed without monetary recompense. The Volksverein established collection centres to assist the unfortunate victims of the World War in Europe and many a food and clothing parcel made its way to people in dire need. The Volksverein headed the list when helping hands had to be extended to the poor people in southern Saskatchewan who suffered want in the years of drought and depression. Considerable sums of money were diverted from the treasury of the Volksverein to the Archbishop of Regina and the Bishop of Gravelbourg for the needy in their respective dioceses in 1932. The Volksverein supported the radio broadcasts of Father Grant, O.M.I., of Saskatoon, which he undertook to instruct the people in the Catholic Religion. The Volksverein advocated the setting up of parish libraries to supply the Catholics with good reading matter. Its own publications which were distributed among the members of the Volksverein amounted in the years 1911 to 1912 to 13,800 copies including two

[illegible] safeguard our Catholic youth the Volksverein [illegible] the Catholic Teachers Agency and [illegible] Kindergarten of Bruno with its associate [illegible] 1922 organized and gave life to the Catholic S[illegible] fluence of the Volksverein that a number of Cath[illegible] school matters were amicably settled. Members of the Volksverein [illegible] A. Bruck [illegible] cabinet.

After the last Katholikentag [illegible] Second World War shut out all immigration [illegible] and [illegible] a Volksverein [illegible] Minister [illegible] Secretary John [illegible] left on the treasurer to the Catholic [illegible] Society for Western Canada.



St. Peter's Abbey Cemetery

✝ Early Deaths ✝

[illegible]

Father John Baltrey, was the first member the Benedictine family in Saskatchewan to be called to his eternal reward February 13 1915 He was born at Limerick, Ireland, January 1, 1847, during the time of the great potato bligh famine, when over two million people perished His parents died at that time, and his grand- er took care of the child As a young man he emigrated to India travelled to other - tries, and finally arrived in the United States where he lived for a time in New Orleans, Lou later moving to Cairo, Illinois During the years of the Civil War he was in New Orleans could reminisce of these turbulent times in his conversations with his friends. As a young man he felt himself drawn to the priesthood and to the religious life, and became a novice with a religious community for a time, but left - ried, and was the father of several children After the death of his wife, and after his child - - up and married, the urge to become a religious and if possible a priest re turned. He begged admission to the Order of St Benedict at the Priory of Cluny, and was admit ted by Prior Oswald. On May 19, 1895, he pro nounced his simple vows. He had experience as a teacher, and so was appointed professor of it, Arithmetic, Geometry, Algebra, and other subjects in the Priory school. He n organist, and was considerably versed

Prior Alfred, appreciating the good qual - - - - - ordained a priest, a happiness that came to Fa ther John on May 12, 1903, when together with Father Peter, Bishop Trobec of St. Cloud raised him to the priesthood. He was 56 years old. As mentioned previously, he celebrated his first Mass at Muenster, July 12, 1903

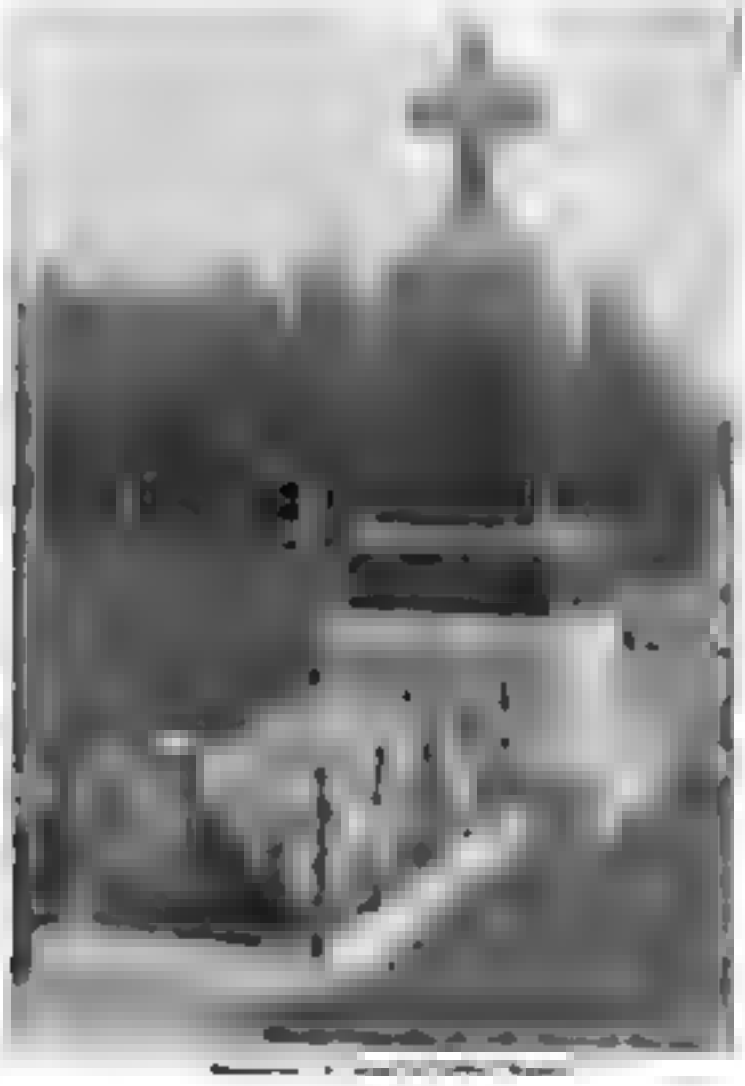
Observing the motto of the Order, "Ora et labora," he worked as carpenter for the munity. He added the entire north half of the annex to the first frame building which served as monastery up to the fall of 1906. His con freres helped to the best of their ability. He learned enough German to be able to hear con fessions and to preach. Because of his great kindness he was much sought as a confessor On April 1, 1912, he suffered a paralytic stroke from which he never recovered sufficiently to say Mass. He suffered another stroke on Feb ruary 9, 1915, and passed away peacefully February 13, 1915 Prior Peter, assisted by Fa ther Suborior Leo and Father Matthias as con and subdeacon and Father Bernard as mas ter of ceremonies and preacher, celebrated the Requiem Mass, February 16. Abbot Bruno pro nounced the Absolution and conducted the cere monies at the grave. In 1923 his remains were re-interred in the monastery cemetery, near the present monastery building

[illegible]

The second member of St Peter's Abbey to be called by the Almighty to rest from his labors was the head of the Abbey Father Abbot Bruno Doerfler He died June 12, 1919, aged 53 years, The shock was indeed staggering. The Abbot always appeared so healthy and strong, that it hard to believe that death could overpower him at that age and so swiftly

St Peter's Bote in the issue June 18, 1919 describes his passing as follows: "On May 26, the Rt. Rev Abbot was in Battleford on diocesan business and on his return the next day he felt unwell and was confined to bed the greater part of the day This may be regarded as the first serious sign of ill health connected with the Abbot's last illness On June 7 he began his Con firmation trip which he had been unable to undertake the preceding fall because of the ravages of influenza. He was about to make use for the first time of the indult to administer Con firmation in the diocese of Prince Albert which Bishop Pascal had obtained for him He left Saskatoon where he was to administer Confirma tion on Whitsunday at St Paul's Church He had bidden the community his last farewell. At the dis cribution of Holy Communion during the - o clock Mass which he celebrated, he became

seriously ill. In spite of the fact that he could scarcely finish Mass and had to be carried to the parish house after the Mass, he was loathe to disappoint the eager expectants of the Holy Ghost and towards evening declared himself strong enough to administer the sacrament to the converts and to those who lived at a great distance from the church. These numbered about twenty-five and he succeeded with great difficulty. This was the first and only time the Abbot was to make use of the indult. Next day, Monday, the Abbot considered himself sufficiently strong to risk the trip to Humboldt. He was met there by Father Prior Peter and Father Bernard and immediately conveyed to the hospital, where he knew he would the best possible treatment. His illness, a heart condition, was not considered so serious as to keep him in bed for more than a week, but he never rose again. He was reported steadily improving, until on Thursday, June 12, things took turn for the worse. At 4:40 P. M. a telephone message reached the little community that Father Abbot was dying. The Fathers present at the death of the Abbot were Father Lawrence who had visit



ed the monastery that day to see the decorations in the church and who had then decided to pay a visit to the hospital to see the Abbot. Father Benedict of Humboldt and Father Schmidt Father Lawrence imparted absolution to Father Abbot and recited the prayers for the dying. Father Schmidt administered the Sacrament of Extreme Unction. Father Prior Peter and Father Bernard hurried to Humboldt as quickly as possible after receiving notification, but they arrived after his death. The choir of angels had sped him to his reward. Father Abbot passed to a better world, well prepared and fortified with the sacraments of Holy Mother Church, conscious almost to the very last when he quietly dropped off into a peaceful sleep — as though angels tried to speed him quietly and quickly to their company above, before the watchers should be aware of it.

for the beloved Prelate on June 13, by Father Prior Peter with Fathers Lawrence and Bernard as deacon and subdeacon. The funeral took place on Wednesday, June 18. After the Office of the dead, Abbot Peter Engel, O.S.B. of St. John's Abby Rt. Rev. M. Pilon, Vicar General and Administrator of the Archdiocese of Edmonton as deacon and Father Hilary Doerfler O.S.B. brother of Father Abbot as subdeacon. Father A. Charest of Regina was master of ceremonies. Archbishop Mathieu of Regina delivered the sermon in which

five absolutions were pronounced by Archbishop Campion College and D. Gillies of Regina, Prior Matheu, assisted by Fathers T. MacMahon of Peter assisted by Fathers Matthias and Benedict

Ruthenian Bishop Nicetas Budka, assisted by Fathers F. Kowalski, O.M.I. and P. Hilland, O.M.I. the Provincial of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate Very Rev. H. Grandin, assisted by Fathers Wm. Brueck, O.M.I., of Prince Albert and Father T. Krist of Leipzig, and lastly by the celebrant Abbot Peter. The great number of priests, attending the services, as well as many prominent laymen, among them Dr. J. M. Uhrich and Mr. McDonald, representing the Knights of Columbus of Saskatoon and the Province of Saskatchewan, gave testimony of the high esteem in which Abbot Bruno was held, and greatly crowded the commun-

ity. The highest dignitaries of the Church and State in the persons of His Excellency Di Maria, the Apostolic Delegate, and the Ex-Premier, the Honorable Walter Scott, extended messages of sympathy. About 3,000 mourners walked in the

Gerard Doerfler was born at Richfield, Minnesota, December 29, 1866. He remained on his Father's farm till his 21st year, when he left for St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn. Having completed the commercial and classical course, he was admitted into the Order of St. Benedict, the name Fr. Bruno, and a year later, July 11, 1893 he pronounced his first vows. His superiors, recognizing his great talent, sent him to the International College of Benedictines at Rome known as the Anselmianum. Here he remained from 1893 to 1899. He was ordained to the priesthood by a member of the sacred College of Cardinals, August 10, 1897. Upon his return to Minnesota he was appointed Rector of St. John's University, an office which he held until Divine Providence called him to Canada. It was he who selected the site of St. Peter's Colony and the first Benedictine foundation. He was the spiritual head of both from 1906 until his untimely death.

A sketch of Abbot Bruno's life in the St. Peter's Gote of June 18, 1919, said: "In the death

staunch support of one of her learned prelates, Abbot Bruno has been known throughout all Canada for his learning and for his zeal in the cause of the Church. As a doctor of Canon Law his advice and counsel were eagerly sought. As Vicar General of the Diocese of Prince Albert, Abbot Bruno was always a strong support to his Bishop who gladly shared his labors with him, being grateful to have at hand a man of such ability in the governing of the diocese. Especially during the last few years, when the Bishop's health began to fail, much of the administration rested on Father Abbot, and his activities resembled more the duties of a bishop than those of an Abbot of a community. The Bishop considered him indispensable to the government of his diocese, and often

feered with him. In him, Bishop Pascal has lost a sincere and devoted friend. Who of those acquainted with the Bishop and his Vicar General

has not perceived the intimate friendship whicl existed between them? We would almost wish tha the Bishop could remain unaware of the Ab bot's death while he is abroad, and we fear that the good Bishop will be heartbroken at the sad news. May the good God help our kind Bishop and assist him in his sad bereavement. He has our heartfelt sympathy, though we hardly believe that he can miss his friend and assistant more than we the Abbot's spiritual sons, miss his fatherly solici tude.

Abbot Bruno was extremely well read, was excellent conversationalist and could write or converse on almost any subject. He was a true philanthropist and the thousands of people whom he aided and benefitted have now lost him whom they can in a true sense call their father. Any set tler who has been in or near the Colony for some years, cannot help but admire the progress which has taken place. This progress, none dare gainsay, has been due to the never ceasing efforts of Ab bot Bruno to obtain for the settlers the best for mind and body. To this purpose he introduced two Orders of Sisters into the Colony, the Eliza bethans and the Ursulines. The first Sisters of St Elizabeth arrived in the Colony from the convent of Klagenfurt, Austria, in 1911. The blessings of Almighty God have rested visibly upon them, and their number has already materially increased. It was the sad privilege of these sisters to tend the Abbot in his short illness, and to close his eyes in death. It is noteworthy to recall the eagerness with which the Abbot came to Humboldt to these Sisters when he was seriously ill. He might have stayed in Sas katoon and have entered the hospital there, but he returned to his own Sisters, to be as near as possible to his own monastery. The Ursuline nuns are, as far as their number permits, in charge of the pa rochial schools of the Colony. May God hasten the day when every school in the Colony or at least every parish will be under the direction of these Sisters. These two communities of Sisters are a boon and a blessing to the Colony. In the hearts, we trust, the memory of Abbot Bruno will ever be firmly rooted. Likewise may his memory

[illegible] hearts of the settlers, for whose benefit the Abbot planted these common hat [illegible] out a hundredfold.

The monks of St. Peter's Abbey have become dearly attached to their Abbot while he ruled the community. Abbot Bruno has a host of friends, among whom are the Catholic Hierarchs of Canada and the United States, men of all clas ses of people in North America, ranging from the southernmost Benedictine community in the United States to the world's northernmost m Canada's Arctic circle, and many friends in [illegible]. From Abbot Bruno's eyes there shone forth such a personal magnetism of charity with which his heart overflowed that few could resist it. Anyone who was acquainted with Father Abbot could not help but note in him his characteristic childlike simplicity, frankness and charity in all his dealings with others joined with an utter forgetfulness of self. His [illegible] ds were ordinarily given in the form of a re quest. Despite his manifold and difficult duties [illegible] ds and troubles, Father Abbot retained his re markable equanimity. He had a way of perform ing some of the most menial services about the house without lowering his dignity one iota. In the performance of any of his work there never [illegible] served the sick with his own hand, and would rise at any odd hour of the night to see whether he could serve them. Ought not such fatherly and brotherly love win our heart?"

The article in the St. Peter's Bote ends with the words, "Here was a man who served as a model in the observance of the injunction of our holy Father St. Benedict, speaking of the Abbot, 'Let him aim to be loved rather than feared.'"

The remains of Abbot Bruno were interred in the cemetery of St. Peter's Parish, but were transferred with those of Father John to the Abbey cemetery in 1923. A stately granite monument, a gift of friends of Abbot Bruno, especially from the Volksverein, was erected over his tomb the

The Sisters of St. Elizabeth

The greatest command of God is charity — love of God, which includes love of neighbor. As the fruit of Christ's teaching, hospitals sprang up wherever Christian communities were established. Abbot Bruno recognized the need of a hospital colony, and began to look for an order of hospital sisters to found and conduct one within his

The Sisters of St. Elizabeth at Klagenfurt, Austria, celebrated the two hundredth anniversary of their foundation in 1910, and expressed their wish to begin a new foundation. This came to the knowledge of Prior Bruno through Father Alexander Berghold, former pastor of New Ulm, Minnesota, now living in retirement in Austria. Prior Bruno immediately wrote to the Sisters, inviting them to come to St. Peter's Colony. The Sisters accepted the invitation, and on May 14, 1911, the first group, Sisters Augustina Platzer, Philomena Joch and Gabriella Lex, arrived at Muenster.

Father George Trunk, pastor of Villach, Austria, accompanied the Sisters, returning to Europe May 17. For the time being the Sisters were quartered in a small frame building close to the Abbey, and next day were taken to Humboldt to interview Mayor Andreasen and to look for a suitable location for their future hospital. Several offers were made, and the Sisters decided to locate on a 7½ acre plot on the farm of Mr. Philip Flory, bordering the townsite north of Humboldt, close enough to town and yet far enough away for the quiet and privacy proper to a hospital. The sale of this property was completed July 1911. In November of the same year another 2½ acres were purchased from Mr. Clement Kobe.

On May 17, 1911, the Sisters, in company with Prior Bruno, went to Prince Albert to pay their respects to Bishop Pascal and to receive permission for their foundation in his diocese. The Bishop received them with the greatest joy. While in Prince Albert, Prior Bruno made arrangements with the architect Albrechtson to draw up plans for the proposed hospital. In the middle of June the Sisters visited Fulda, Dead Moose Lake, Lake Lenore, Anaheim and St. Gregor and were much impressed with what they saw. On December 11, 1911, the town of Humboldt passed a by-law to assist the construction of the hospital with a grant of $2,500. In order to acquire knowledge of the English language Sisters Philomena and Gabriella went to Duluth, Minnesota, in September. They stayed with the Sisters of St. Benedict until March, 1912. Sister Augustina, the temporary superior of the foundation, remained in the Colony, to supervise the necessary work connected with the new foundation.

As soon as the contract for the new hospital was let to J. P. Hansen, September 19, 1911, excavation started. It progressed so favorably that by the beginning of winter the concrete had been poured, the basement was finished and the brick laying on the outer walls had commenced. In spring work was resumed, but repeated rains and the difficulty of getting skilled laborers interfered with the progress of the building. Father Rudolph, pastor of Humboldt, lent his help by supervising the construction. Despite many difficulties, the two storey structure, 54 x 52 feet, with full basement, chapel, operating room on the second floor, rooms to accomodate 18 patients, quarters for the Sisters above the second floor, kitchen and store rooms, was so far completed that Bishop Pascal was able to bless it October 3, 1912. Abbot Bruno, Prior Peter, Fathers Rudolph and Casimir assisted the bishop at the function.

Since it would have been impossible to conduct a hospital of that size efficiently with only three Sisters, the motherhouse at Klagenfurt sent generous help. On July 26, 1912 the following seven Sisters arrived: Sisters Euphrasia, Salesia, Clementina, Agatha, Helena, Xaveria and Gertrude. The last named Sister was still a novice but made her vows before Bishop Pascal on April 19, 1913.

The first patient admitted to St. Elizabeth's Hospital was Matthias Streeby of Dead Moose Lake. He was operated for appendicitis by Dr.

Barry on October 23, 1912. The first female patient to be admitted was Miss Mary Lochr of Muenster. C. O. Knapp, grain buyer at Engelfeld, was the first patient to die in the hospital, January 15, 1913. During the last week of June 1913 there were 20 patients in the hospital.

In order to secure additional help for the hospital, Abbot Bruno journeyed to Austria and succeeded in obtaining three more Sisters. Sister Pulcheria Wilhelm, who had been superior of the motherhouse at Klagenfurt for a number of years, Saskatchewan had been ratified, and Sister Walbu[illegible]

[illegible]e. Great was the joy of the little community on July 4, 1913.

On August 30, 1913, Abbot Bruno celebrated a Mass in honor of the Holy Ghost in the Sisters' chapel at which, having received the necessary documents from Bishop Pascal, he declared the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Humboldt independent of their motherhouse in Klagenfurt and canonically erected the Convent at Humboldt as a motherhouse. After this Abbot Bruno presided at an election at which Sister Fulcheria was chosen the first Mother Superior. Bishop Pascal ratified the election September 3, 1913. The first Sister to pronounced her vows in the new motherhouse was a novice Sister Seraphina, who on November 24, 1913, dedicated her future life to God and the service of the sick at a Mass celebrated by Abbot Bruno. Miss Agnes Schmidt, a daughter of Mr. Kon. Schmidt of Humboldt, was invested the same day as a novice receiving the religious name of Sister Marianna. She was the first girl from St. Peter's Colony to join the Sisters of St. Elizabeth. Father Abbot's assistant at the inspiring ceremony was Prior Peter. Sister Marianna pronounced her first vows on February 10, 1915.

From the opening of the hospital in October 1912 till December 1913, no less than 281 patients were nursed by the Sisters and 128 patients were operated. In 1914 the number of patients treated was 281, 136 of these being operated. In 1914 22 children were born in the hospital. The number of patients admitted in 1915 was 291 increasing to 329 in 1916, and reached 557 in 1919. Through the years the number of patients seeking relief has steadily increased. In 1945 it was 2400, in 1946, 3053, in 1947 3263, in 1948, 3240. In 1949 3284, and in 1950, 3334. From 1945 to 1990 9 134 patients were admitted.

Many improvements have been made during the past forty years, so that today St. Elizabeth's Hospital is rated as one of the finest institutions in the province. The figures quoted prove how [illegible] these Sisters have conferred upon the people good the Sisters have done, helping by their service and example people suffering from a wide variety of sickness and misfortune. Sincere thanks are due

to the Sisters, but thanks must also be given to Abbot Bruno who induced them to come.

During its session early in 1915, the Provincial Legislature in Regina granted incorporation rights to the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Humboldt. Certificates as qualified nurses were obtained by Sisters Philomena, Salesia, Clementina and Theodora.

December 1917 Sister Theodora, formerly Miss Anna Steben from Allan, Saskatchewan was invested as a novice by Bishop Pascal May 3, 1916. Invested on the same day were two young ladies from Leofeld, Rosa Lopinski and Theresa Jungwirth who received the names Sister Elizabeth and Sister Benedicta respectively. The three novices were admitted to vows on October 4, 1917. The hospital was too small to admit all the relatives and friends who wished to witness the ceremony. It was held in St. Augustine's Church which was filled to capacity. Among the three young ladies who were received into the Novitiate on October 4 1917 was Miss Theresa Poth of Catinet who was given the name Sister Pulcheria. She became well known to the public in later years as the bursar of the community and superintended the construction of the Central Heating Plant and Laundry.

The struggling young community was dealt two severe blows in 1916. On January 9, Sister Augustina Pfitzer the first temporar died at the age of 45. While attending a sick lady in her home, before the hospital was built she contracted pleurisy which developed into tuberculosis a trial which she bore with exemplary patience and resignation. Despite her failing condition she visited many families and collected funds for the completion of the hospital. When she was no longer able to do this work, she kept books of the hospital. Her peaceful death which she had foretold in the morning, occurred on January 8. After a Requiem High Mass in the chapel of the Convent January 11 her body was laid to rest in the plot which had been selected for the Sisters' cemetery. This is located a few hundred yards west of the hospital and Father Schmidt erected a beautiful grotto in it which blessed by Bishop Pascal on one of his visits.

The second severe blow which the community suffered was the unexpected death of Rev. Mother Pulcheria who died of cancer four

tion performed by Dr. McKenty of Winnipeg assisted by Doctors Barry, Cox and McCutcheon and Sisters Philomena and Salesia, though at first ingly successful could not save the life of the beloved Superior. The day after the operation this valiant woman who was the soul of the new foundation passed away, February 5, 1916. She was well prepared for death and gave all the neces instructions before death came, telling the Sis what kind of coffin she wanted and where she wished to be buried. The funeral took place on February 8 after a Requiem High Mass celebrated by Prior Peter. Abbot Bruno pronounced the absolution and conducted the services at the grave.

When Father Joseph Wickel went to his old home in Germany during the summer of 19 he also visited the motherhouse of the Sisters in Klagenfurt, Austria, and the following Sisters came to Canada with him: Sisters Margarita, Jacoba, Maria, Martina, Ottilia and Bonaventura. The last European Sisters to join the Convent at Humboldt was Sister Frances Roessler. She made the journey from Austria to Canada by plane in Oc

Like Abbot Bruno Bishop Pascal was a real father to the Sisters of St. Elizabeth. On April 2 1916, he presided at the election of the new mother superior at which Sister Euphrasia Weiss chosen to head the community for the next three years. During her term of office an isolation hospital was erected a distance west of the building, and a two-storey brick building 32 x 26 feet, was built to the south of the hospital to serve as Novitiate and laundry. The mounting number of patients made it imperative to think of nlarging the hospital. Consequently, in 1918, it was decided to add a two storey wing 68x37 feet to the north of the existing building. The people of Humboldt and the surrounding district heartily endorsed the project. Excavation work was begun before the winter of 1918, and in 1920 the building was completed. It cost over $60,000. At the election held on April 2, 1919, Mother Euphrasia was succeeded by Mother Walburga as superior.

The first resident chaplain at the hospital was Father William Hein, O.S.B., a member of St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He

St. Elizabeth Hospital today

First unit of St. Elizabeth Hospital and Convent

suffering from respiratory ailments and was sent to Canada to recover. Not finding the relief he sought he returned to the United States Ot succeeded as chaplain by Father Peter Fischer O.S.B., for a short time and later by Father Bonifac Puth. On September 20, 1916, Father Thar Schmidt formerly a White Father and pastor of Bonne Madone in the diocese of Prince Albert appointed chaplain. Father Schmidt under took a trip to Klagenfurt to ask for more Sisters who were needed in the expanding hospital. Though he was authorized by the Canadian Government to bring a group of Sisters, he encountered many difficulties with the officials of various European countries so that the Sisters were three months route before reaching Humboldt. May 20 1920 This group included Sisters Mary Elizabeth, Ro Aloysia, and Christina; also Miss Christina Christoffel and Miss Rosina Luschin

In 1923 Father Schmidt suffered a paralytic stroke from which he never fully recovered. In July 926, while visiting the Sisters foundation at Scott Saskatchewan, he became seriously ill He was taken to St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, where he died peacefully July 25 His body was taken to Humboldt, where after a solemn Requiem High Mass by Monsignor C. Bourdel of Prud'homme assisted by Father Lawrence as deacon and Father Nicolet of Battleford as Subdeacon he was laid to rest in the Sisters' cemetery Prior Peter preached the funeral oration, pronounced the absolution and conducted the services at the grave. M. Bandoux a seminarian, now Co-adjutor Archbishop of St Boniface was master of ceremonies

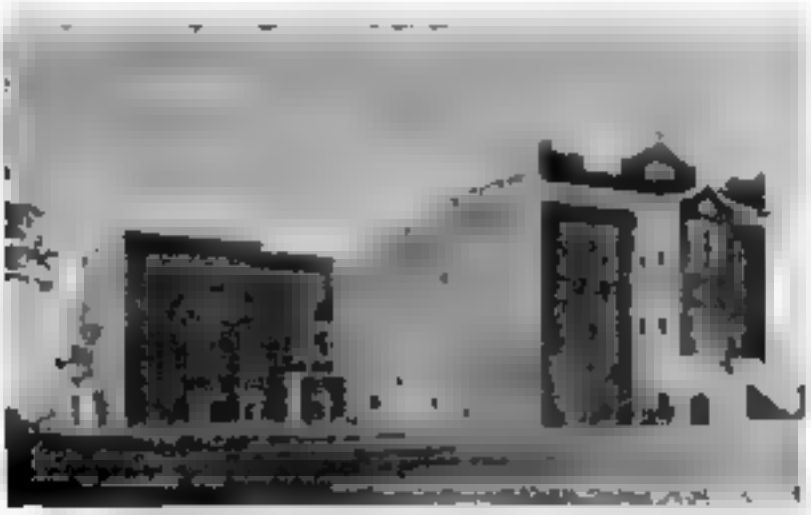
Father Schmidt's successor was Father Bene who had assisted him for a year Father Bene dict celebrated his silver jubilee of ordination at the hospital, July 4, 1926. When his old illness, recurring heart attacks, returned, he was given an assistant in 1944 in the person of Father Cosmas Four years later Father Paul succeeded Father Cos Father Paul celebrated his silver jubilee of the priesthood August 2, 1950. In 1952 he was succeeded by Father Luke. Father Benedict had the consolation of celebrating the golden jubilee of his profession as a Benedictine on September 946, and his golden jubilee of priesthood July 1951. Both celebrations took place in the chapel of the hospital in the presence of Abbot Severin

Physicians attending the Hospital were: Doc tors D. B. Neely, J. L. Barry, F. R. Fleming, James C. King, G. F. Hedgerken, Shiaz, Cox, R. G. Yeager, J. W. Herringer. H. H. Bruser Gray McCutcheon, S. W. Hargarten, H. A. Hengen, J. M. Ogilvie. M. G. Kunkel, F. S. Yandel, Murphy

October 4, 927 when Abbot Michael invested Miss Cunegunde Schneider now Sister Alphonsa the number of Sisters had increased to 23. That afternoon he blessed the bell of the chapel In 195 the community had over 100 professed Sisters de spite the fact that between the death of the first two Sisters in 1916 and the end of 1951 God called 17 more Sisters to their reward: Sisters Ottilia, Pia Walburga, Gertrude, Euphrasia, Catherine, Ar mella, Jacoba, Xaveria, Philomena, Stephanie. May Gabriela. Sister Salesia had returned to Klagen furt, she died there of sheer exhaustion, a martyr of devotion to suffering humanity, while attending the wounded soldiers during the Second World

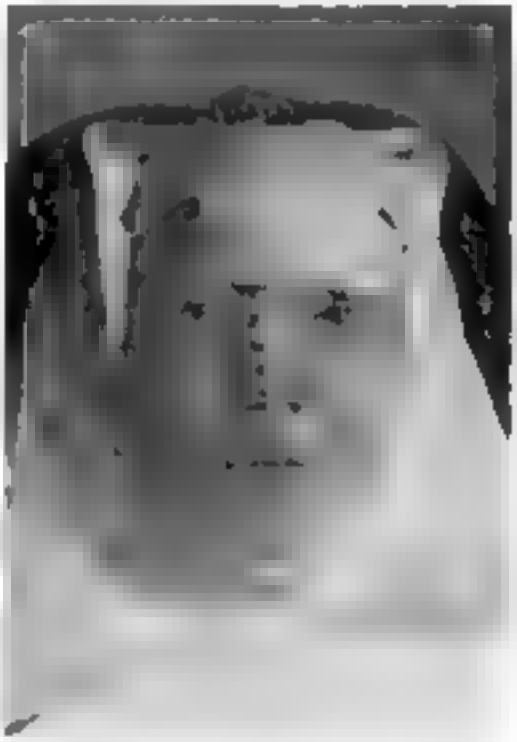
wing was added to the west and an extension the north In the basement of this the kitchen and dining rooms, on the first floor is the maternity department while the chapel is the second floor. The chapel is the beauty spot of the institution. It was decorated by Professor Berthold Imhoff. In 1945-46 the central heating plant and laundry was built, and in 1949-50 the nurses' residence, both west of the hospital. At the time of writing the hospital is again over crowded and plans are maturing to erect a 75 bed hospital southwest of the present site

The blessings which the Lord has poured out upon the inhabitants of Humboldt and district by giving them the Sisters of St Elizabeth did not only in that locality, but went far beyond in 1915 Father Francis Pahn, O.M.I. a brother of Father Rudolph, O.S.B., asked the Sisters to found a hospital at Macklin, Saskatchewan, in t St Joseph's Colony In November of the same Abbot Bruno and Mother Pulcheria went to Macklin to investigate conditions. But it was not



St. Michael's Hospital, Cudworth, Sask.

Chapel of St. Elizabeth's Hospital



Mother Pauline, Superior General at Kingsbury

until 1921 that the Sisters, urged by Father Wil
am Brabender, O.M.I. decided to found a daug
re, and the surrounding district supported the
verted into a temporary hospital in 192
used for that purpose until a two storey brick build
ing, St. Joseph's Hospital, modern in every re-
spect, was completed and blessed by Bishop Prud
homme in May 1927. Dr. F. L. Eid has been at
tending the patients in this hospital up to the

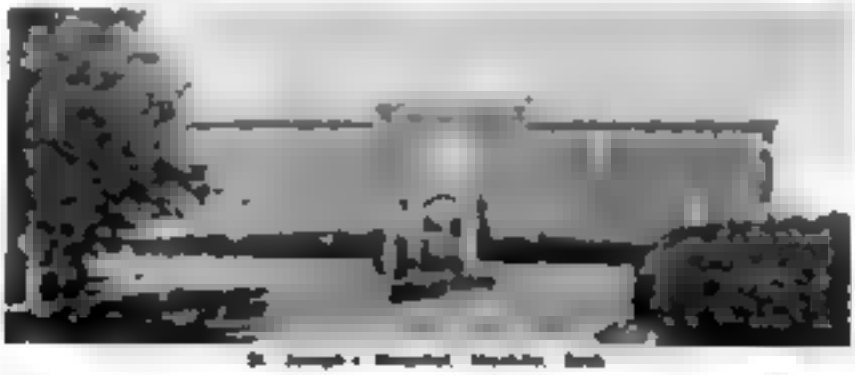
At Scott, Saskatchewan, another hospital
in charge of the Sisters for several years. At the
request of Bishop Prud'homme the Sisters took
the hospital at Rosthern on January 1, 1936
on account of circumstances beyond their con-
trol, and to be abandoned later.

A third hospital, St. Michael's, was founded at Cudworth. As at Macklin here also a large house
was used as a temporary hospital and the patients were attended by Dr. Longault for several years. A two storey brick building was erected in 1927 and blessed by Abbot Severin May 29, 1927. Dr. Jerome H. Schropp is the attending physician. At the time of the silver jubilee of the hospital, which was observed by the entire district June 1, 1952, a beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin, a gift of Dr. Schropp was blessed by Prior Peter in its park north of the hospital.

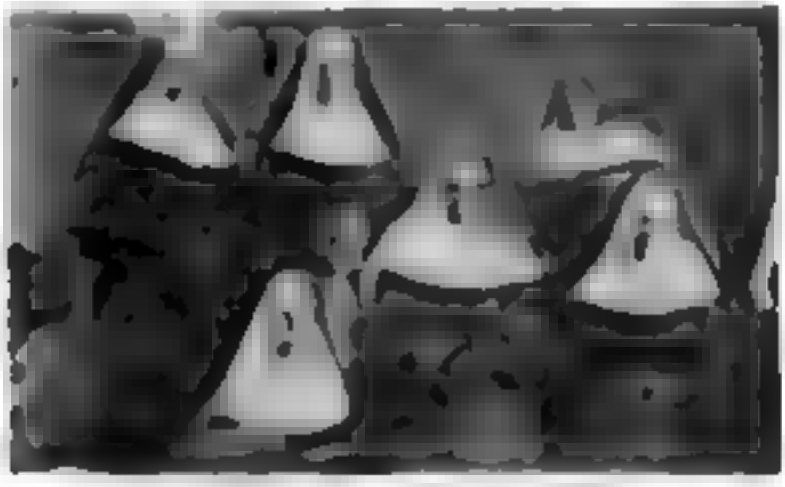
At the request of the Oblate Fathers the Sisters took charge of the kitchen and laundry of the Oblate House of Studies, Battleford, in 1932. In October 1950 when the new College at North Battleford was completed the students were transferred to the new buildings while the former became St. Charles Scholasticate. At the new College the Sisters likewise took charge of the kitchen. In July 1951 the Sisters were withdrawn from the Scholasticate.

During the summer of 1950 the Sisters took charge of the housekeeping duties at the Retreat
House, Mount St. Francis, Cochrane, Alta., conducted by the Franciscan Fathers. This work was at first undertaken only in the summer months but was later extended when the Franciscans began to conduct these retreats throughout the

In the Fall of 1950 the Sisters also opened a house in Edmonton, Alta., where they have charge of the kitchen at St. Anthony's College, conducted by the Franciscan Fathers. To this rather long list of the extensive activities of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth must be added that ten of their number have been in charge of the kitchen and laundry of St. Peter's College for the past forty years.



St. Joseph's Hospital, Macklin, Sask.



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The Ursuline Nuns

Abbot Bruno well understood the value of good schools, and his ardent desire, was to secure good teachers for the settlers of St. Peter's Colony. His choice fell upon the Ursulines, an order whose prime objective is the education of youth.

On July 14, 1913, Mother Xaveria Loers, the Mother Superior of the Ursuline Convent, Cologne, Germany, and Mother Clara visited Muenster, Bruno, and other parts of the Colony. Then they traveled to Prince Albert to interview Bishop Pascal. The result of the discussions with Bishop Pascal and Abbot Bruno was that, on September 2, 1913, Mother Clara, a member of the Ursuline Convent of Haselunne, Germany, and Mother Angela, a member of the Convent at Cologne, Germany, arrived at Muenster, and next day took charge of the parochial school there. Until the school building was constructed classes were held in the sacristy of the church. This was partitioned off, and although both "class rooms" were heated by big stoves, the Sisters and children at times suffered from the cold. Until the Sisters' residence was completed, they lived with the Sisters of St. Elizabeth who had charge of the monastery kitchen. In two weeks, the children under the guiding hand of Mother Angela, sang a simple choral High Mass to the joy and edification of the parishioners. Immediately after the arrival of the Sisters, work was begun on their home. John Kraus of Marysburg did the mason work for the foundation, and August Wasserman of Muenster the carpenter work. The home was completed by the beginning of 1914, and the Sisters moved in on January 3, and Abbot Bruno blessed it on January 5. Sister Notburga arrived December 17, 1913, to take care of the kitchen, and Mother Agatha arrived on January 1914.

The news that the Ursuline Sisters had arrived in Muenster to teach in the parochial school aroused the desire to have them take over schools in other parishes. Lechelt at once started to erect a large school building to contain the Sisters' dwel[illegible] as well. Work was carried on during the [illegible] the spring of 1914, and was blessed by Bishop Pascal May 22, 1914. The parish of Bruno sent Mr. Honisch, April 18, 1914, as a delegate to Muenster to petition Abbot Bruno to send Sisters to take the parish school. Mother Clara could not refuse, and the next day went to Bruno to begin teaching. The pressure to which the Sisters were subjected was somewhat relieved with the arrival of Mother Xaveria and Sister Laurentia from Winnipeg, April 23, 1914. The former taught at Muenster to keep house for Mother Clara. Mother Anna Catherine arrived during the course [illegible]. These Sisters had been teaching at Winnipeg and had come from various motherhouses in Germany, Haselunne, Cologne, and Dorsten. Since the majority of them belonged to Haselunne, it was this convent which undertook the responsibility for the foundation in St. Peter's Colony. This fact explains why later Mother Anna Catherine returned to Germany and Mother Angela went to Vibank, Sask., where the foundation from Dorsten was re-established after the buildings of the convent were destroyed by fire at Grayson, Sask.

The little band of seven Ursulines was augmented by the arrival on August 14, 1914, of Sisters Antonia, Ursula, Paula, Walburga, Cordula, Vincentia and Crescentia. These seven were from the Convent of Haselunne excepting Sister Ursula who came from Dorsten. They left Germany just before the outbreak of the war on the German steamship Wittekind and were well out at sea when the news reached them of hostilities between England and Germany. From then on the voyage became exciting, since the Wittekind ran the risk of being captured by British warships. In order to [illegible] this, the entire boat was painted during the night to camouflage it and to make it resemble a neutral ship. As a rule sailors dislike fog, but on this voyage the Captain approached the Sisters and said, "Sisters, pray for fog, so that we may [illegible]

capture " Fog there was, plenty of it! As a precaution, the Wittekind changed course and landed at Boston instead of New York. The Sisters experienced no difficulty with the Canadian Immigration Officers and all seven arrived safely at Muenster August 14, 1914.

The parochial schools of Muenster, Leofeld and Bruno opened on September 1, 1914, and were staffed by the following Sisters: at Muenster Mother Clara Mother Xaveria and Sister Cordula at Leofeld Mother Ursula, Sisters Anna Catharina and Lawrentia; at Bruno, Mother Antonia and Agatha and Sister Crescentia. The same year a spacious school building and Sisters' dwelling combined was erected under the direction of Father Casimir at Dead Moose Lake (Marysburg) and the school opened on January 7, 1915, staffed by Mother Clara and Sisters Walburga and Veronica. The building pleased the Sisters so well that they chose it as their center and made it their temporary Convent in 1916. More Sisters had been promised by the motherhouse at Hasselcamp, but because of the war they could not be sent. Some of the more populated parishes of the Colony begged for Sisters for their parochial schools, among them, Humboldt, Watson, Lake Lenore and Annaheim. Divine Providence again came to their aid. Young ladies of the Colony, the daughters of settlers, expressed the wish to dedicate their lives to God and the instruction of the children as Ursulines. Their wish, however, could not be fulfilled immediately, since the Ursulines were still a dependent community and could not have a canonical novitiate here. All communication with the motherhouse was cut off and though it was understood that the community should eventually become independent and be raised to the rank of a motherhouse for the time being, it seemed nothing could be done.

The resourceful Abbot Bruno found a way to solve the difficulty. He advised Bishop Pascal to draw up a document and forward it to Rome requesting the Holy See to permit the Ursulines to open a novitiate and accept aspirants to their Order. The Holy See granted the petition and the necessary rescript arrived in March 1916, stipulating that a separate motherhouse, independent of Hasselcamp, be erected in St. Peter's Colony. Accordingly, on May 30, 1916, Bishop Pascal, accompanied by Abbot Bruno, went to Dead Moose Lake and declared the Ursuline foundation in St. Peter's Colony a motherhouse of the Order of St. Ursula, with the right of conducting a novitiate. Rev. Mother Clara, who from the beginning of the foundation was the soul of all the activities of the Sisters, was appointed the first canonical Mother Superioress.

The next day, the feast of St. Angela, the foundress of the Sisters of St. Ursula, two young ladies asked for admission to the new community. They were Miss Mary Windschiegl of Watson, Sask., (a niece of Father Prior Peter), and Miss Mary Plenert of Albany, Minnesota, then teacher at the Pilger School. They joined the Sisters on November 1, and were clothed with the Ursuline habit August 8, 1917, receiving the names of Sister Josepha and Benedict. Soon two other young ladies followed: Miss Mary Loebbdorf of Leofeld, now Sister Margaret, and Miss Katherine Koenning of Bruno, now Sister Mary. It is significant that the first three of those early candidates bore the name Mary, while the fourth received that cherished name in religion. Our Lady was indeed showing her interest in the new foundation.

Sister Josepha and Sister Benedict pronounced their vows on August 20, 1919 and Miss Alodia Muench and Miss Frances Weber both of Muenster were received into the novitiate. They received the names in religion of Sisters Theresia and Magdalene. Father Prior Peter was delegated by the Very Rev. Ign. O.M.I., Vicar General of the diocese of Prince Albert, to preside at the first profession of vows in the Order of St. Ursula conducted in St. Peter's Colony. He was assisted by Fathers Dominic and Joseph.

Officially the Ursuline community was now established as a motherhouse. However, since they did not own any land or buildings (their temporary motherhouse at Dead Moose Lake was parish property), and since they had not been able to bring money from Germany, their motherhouse was, as it were, hanging in the air. They had no place in the Colony they could call their home. Dead Moose Lake was not considered an ideal place for their permanent foundation, since it was far out

practical. They were directed to Bruno as a possible location, and Bruno received them joyfully. Father Leo, pastor of Bruno, did all in his power to support the plan. A tract of land, north of town, near the Church, was secured, and the parish pledged itself to donate the sum of $5,000.00 toward the new building, to do all the excavating and hauling [illegible] wholeheartedly countenanced the undertaking and appealed to the settlers of the Colony to contribute financially. The work of excavation under the direction of Mr. Henry Dust started in the fall of 1918 and as soon as the frost was out of the ground was continued in the spring of 1919. The building was 100 x 44 feet, three stories high with full basement. The chapel was located on the first floor [illegible] the west side. Under date of December 20, 1918 the Ursulines were legally incorporated under the title "The Ursuline Nuns of Bruno."

While the work of construction was proceeding at a rapid pace during the summer of 1919, the Lord evidently considered the mission of Abbot Bruno completed. His last official act within St. Peter's Colony was to preside at the election of the Mother Superior, May 30, 1919. On that day the three year term of office of Mother Clara expired and Mother Antonia was elected to succeed her. The election was held at the temporary convent at Marysburg. The Ursuline community numbered 13 Sisters, four novices and two candidates.

The cornerstone of the new Convent at Bruno was blessed and laid at a semi-private ceremony by Father Prior Peter, June 22, 1919. The building [illegible] completed before Christmas the same year and solemnly blessed by Abbot Michael, November 9, 1919. Now the Sisters could rejoice, they had a home. On July 9, 1921, Mother Antonia left for Germany and returned October 17 with five more Sisters from the Convent of Haselhuenne, so that [illegible] number of Ursulines available to instruct the [illegible] of the colony was increased to 26. The new arrivals were: Sisters Mechtild, Scholastica, Clementine, Perpetua and Clothildis. On August 17, 1933 three novices arrived in Bruno from Haselhuenne, Sisters Anna Christina and Ludwina.

Mother Antonia was head of the community [illegible] nine years, three terms of three years each. These years were years of progress and accomplish[illegible]. Moreover, she filled the office of novice mistress, superintending the training of the young religious, from 1919 to 1947. During the years she [illegible] superior, membership in the community [illegible] creased, which made it possible to open new schools, at Lake Lenore, 1922, Watson, 1924, Humboldt, 1927 and Annaheim, 1927. In 1936 she suffered a serious infection, which necessitated the amputation of a leg. Despite this handicap she made [illegible] self useful to the community, instructing [illegible]s and translating articles and books for [illegible] of the community. One of her former pupils (Mrs. Maurice Conner) characterized her from [illegible] teacher at the time of her golden jubilee, August 30, 1943, thus: "Mother Antonia was the ideal teacher and Mother Superior. We of that first [illegible] class, the class of 1922-25, knew no [illegible] Reverend Mother' and we loved her [illegible] set apart to be especially regarded and respected [illegible] for her high office, but particularly because of the inspiring leadership she gave us. I [illegible] of us felt that her interest in us was individual, personal and wholly unselfish. Gently but firmly she took our girlish ideas and fancies and de[illegible] and guided them to wiser and more mature viewpoints and ideals. Gently but firmly she took [illegible] little misdemeanors, and by means of a 'little talk in the parlor', or measured words in the class room, led us to better acts. Always she succeeded [illegible] making us feel that she was right, and so we tried to act accordingly. In her we truly saw Christ like actions and I know that each of us felt [illegible] lives enriched through having known her as [illegible] did." When anybody was in suffering, she would say, "Turn your pain into gain." She was a valiant [illegible] a pillar for the young community. She died April 19, 1950, at the age of 80 years.

Two more schools were taken over by the Ursulines in 1950, the one in Englefeld and [illegible] other in Carmel. At all these schools conducted by the Sisters they have their own residence and a little chapel where the Blessed Sacrament, the [illegible] ir strength, is reserved.

After the expiration of Mother Antonia's third term of office, Mother Clara, who had guided the community during the first years, was again elect[illegible] two consecutive terms, six years, during

Haselunne to beg for more Sisters in 1921 and

the Catechetical Correspondence Course for the

the suffering world.

the Ursuline Order

1952 on part of the plan

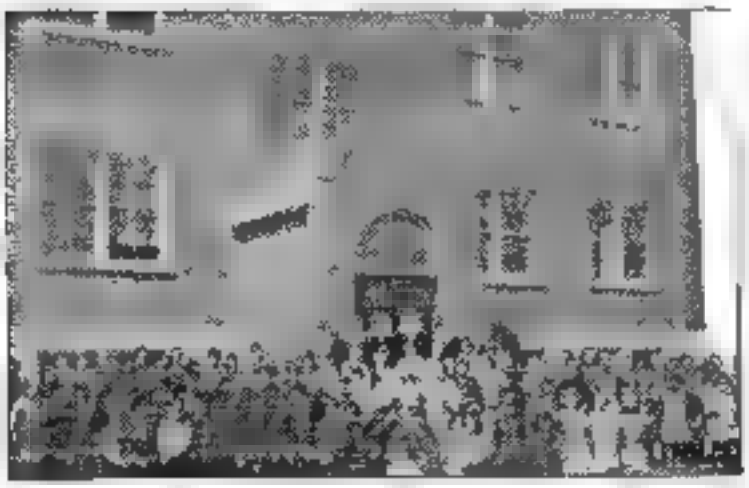
The chaplains o[illegible] Ursuline Sisters were the

about 1200 are attending the grade schools. The parents in these school districts are indeed fortunate to be able to entrust their children to the Sisters whose sole aim is to instill in the minds and hearts of their pupils the appreciation of true values which make for permanent happiness. Through the pupils this influence for good reaches to the families and so to the community

More intensified is the work done by the Sisters through the academy, that training center for the Catholic girl. Owing to limited accommodations St. Ursula's has been able to find room for about two-thirds of the students it has on its waiting list each fall. To date approximately 700 have been enrolled in its classes. Former academy girls are found in various walks of life, from teachers, nurses and stenographers near home, to women in uniform in the armed services and missionary workers in foreign lands. However the majority of the girls become mothers of families, and it is here that the most good is wrought. The lessons learned in academy days are transmitted to a succeeding generation

St. Ursula's Academy, through the Alumnae Association, has joined the Canadian Federation of Convent Alumnae (CFCA) and thus enjoys the benefits of united action in furthering the ideals of Catholic Convent Education

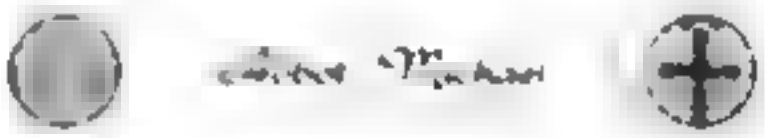
Catholic parents of the Abbey Nullius should have the privilege of seeing their young people attend Catholic institutions. With this in view the Ursuline Convent is planning an extension to include larger classrooms as soon as the chapel, now under construction, is completed



Separate School, Lake Lenore.

[illegible] Convent and Academy

New Wing Long Island



The Very Rev Michael Ott, O.S.B., Ph. D Subprior of St John's Abbey, Minnesota, was chosen on July 23, 1919, to succeed Abbot Bruno and the choice was confirmed by the Holy See on September 22. He had been on the teaching staff of the college and seminary for nearly twenty-five years. He was known as a scholar and a philosopher, and had written numerous articles for the Catholic Encyclopedia. The news of his election reached him while he was conducting a retreat for the Benedictine Fathers of St Martin's Abbey Lacey Washington. He was often called upon to conduct retreats, and had conducted one at St Peter's Abbey in 918. Though he would be hard to replace at St. John's, Abbot Peter, already known for his generosity towards St. Peter's Colony, consented to his election, and the Abbot-Elect wrote July 24, that "taking it to be the will of God. I accept the election with a heavy heart, hoping that with the help of God and the cooperation of the Reverend Fathers I shall be able to bear the heavy burden."

The new Abbot arrived on October 16, with Father Lawrence who had been visiting relatives in the United States and Father Fridolin Tenbreull, O.S.B., whom Abbot Peter permitted to join St. Peter's Abbey. He was given a joyful welcome On October 12 he preached his first sermon in St Peter's Church and stressed the necessity of having a college. The feast of the Apostles, Sts Simon and Jude. October 28, was set for the solemn blessing of the new Abbot A collection was to be taken up on that day for the future St Peter's College, and a drive for funds throughout the Colony was to be inaugurated as soon as possible.

Abbot Michael was blessed by Bishop Vincent Wehrle, O.S.B., of Bismarck, North Dakota, in the beautiful and solemn function which closely resembles the consecration of a Bishop. Bishop Wehrle pontificated, assisted by Rt Rev. M Pilot, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Edmonton as Presbyter Assistant, Fathers P. Hilland, O.M.I., of Winnipeg, as deacon and L. Naud O.M.I., of Fish Creek as subdeacon, Very Rev A. Jan, O.M.I., of Saskatoon and P Nicolet of Battleford as deacons of honor, Fathers H Boening, O.M.I., and D Gamache in dalmatics Fathers Chrysostom and Matthias in pluvials Fathers H. Boening, O.M.I., P Habets, O.M.I Th. Nandzik, O.M.I., Lawrence, O.S.B., Clement Dimpfl, O.S.B., Benedict, O.S.B., Casimir, O.S.B., acted as chaplains to the attending bishops and abbots in the sanctuary Abbot Michael's assistant Abbots were Rt Rev Bernard Menges, O.S.B of St Bernard's Abbey, Cullman, Alabama and Rt Rev Oswald Baran, O.S.B., of St Martin's Abbey, Washington. Among the distinguished visitors were Bishop J T McNally of Calgary Bishop Ovid Charlebois, O.M.I., Vicar Apostolic of Keewatin. Abbot Ernest Helmstetter C S.B of Newark, N. J., President of the American Cassinese Congregation, Abbot Peter Engel, O.S.B., of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., and many other priests and laymen. A number of alumni of St John's University, Collegeville, former pupils of Abbot Michael, were in the church to witness the elevation of their former professor to the dignity of Abbot The ceremonies connected with the blessing of an Abbot are of rare occurrence and many made use of this opportunity to witness them. Father Fridolin and Fr. Marcellus Meyer, the latter, a former member of St John's Abbey who had shortly before joined St Peter's Abbey acted as masters of ceremonies.

The students of St John's University had [illegible] spiritual bouquet and the Knights of Columbus of Humboldt presented an illuminated address to the new Abbot (William Krumpelmann, entered the novitiate at St. John's Abbey in 1919. joined St. Peter's Abbey the next year. was given the name of Fr Cosmas and was ordained December 21, 1923.)

[illegible]

90. Two weeks later the contributions for this important undertaking had mounted to $1 649 .0 by February .. 1920, to $6.790.00. and by January 25. 1923 to $15,950.00 The drive of the Knights of Columbus started in June .5, 1920, and the [illegible] jective was $50,000. Actually subscribed in cash and notes was the sum of $55.702 3. be the final results amounted to $36.634 78. a re[illegible] record, of which the Knights of Columbu of the Humboldt Council can be proud [illegible] appreciated. Special praise is due to St Peter's Parish whose members not only contributed about $10.000 in cash but did all the excavating and the hauling of the materia to the building site This latter work certain had the value of $12.000 On March 7. 1920 Abbot Michael spoke to the members of the Volksverein at Muenster and stated that the College would cost about $120.000. On Janua

922, the St. Peter's Bote informed its readers that it actually cost $130,000 and the cost of the furnishings of the building would demand an additional heavy outlay The plans of the College and the Abbey buildings had alread ordered at a cost of $1,500 by Prior Alfred, from

consis, and one wing of the building, 50 x 169 three storeys high. with basement and attic. to ve accommodation for 150 to 200 students as now to be erected

The first sod was broken and the excavation started on June 28. 1920. Father Andrew Straub O.S.B., a member of St John's Abbey, a with a wealth of building experience arrived at this time to superintend the work. By the end of uly the excavation work was practically complet ed and on August 13 1920. Father Andrew poured the first shovel of cement for the base ment While doing this he recited the following

Spiritus Sancti: Sanctissimae Virginis Mariae

St. Peter's Abbey and College, Muenster

Sancti Josephi, Sanctorum Apostolorum Petri et Pauli atque Beatissimi Patris Nostri Benedicti cujus crucem sub fundamento depono, primam palam cementi superimponi. Muenster, Sask. Canada, August 13, 1920, hora 10:25 a.m. P. A.

Translated this means: "In the name of the most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul and the most Holy Father Benedict, whose cross (medal) I have laid beneath the foundation, I have poured the first shovel

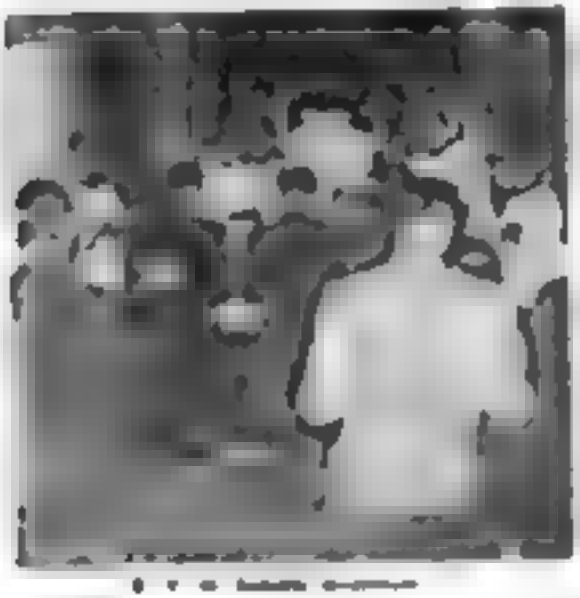
August 13, 1920 at 10.25 a. m., P. Andre.

The contract for the erection of the college was given to Bonas Brothers and on October 4 the concrete walls of the basement were completed, so that stone mason work there could be begun. Six carloads of Manitoba limestone had arrived and were hauled by the people of Muenster to the building site. In appreciation for the work they did gratis, a picnic was arranged for them on September 5. Father Andrew went to Minnesota that fall, but returned on April 27, 1921 to continue supervising the work until it was completed. He returned to Minnesota on November 7, 1921.

Work on the building was resumed on May 2, 1921 at first with only 12 men, but as the tempo increased 35 to 40 were engaged. In June the third storey was begun. A memorable day was the laying of the cornerstone on June 29, 1921, the patronal feast of the Colony. Abbot and College. In the presence of about 3000 people, Abbot Michael celebrated a pontifical High Mass, on a small hill to the southwest of the building, at which Father Prior Peter assisted as Presbyter. Fathers Lawrence and Fridolin as honor. Fathers Joseph Wickel and Matthias as deacon and subdeacon of the mass. Fathers Matthew and Theodore as masters of. Father Casimir directed the Muenster Choir, recently organized by Philip Muench, and Miss Rosa Neuzel played the organ. After the pontifical Mass all marched to the northwest corner of the College, while the bands from Annaheim, Lake Lenore, Pilger and St. Benedict under the direction of Father Bernard played hymns. Father Abbot blessed the cornerstone upon which Charles Bonas had chiseled the year and a cross of St. Benedict. In the stone placed a document and a copy of the St. Peter's Bote. The Abbot addressed the people an elevated platform, telling them that he had offered Mass in thanksgiving to Almighty God for all the graces He had conferred upon them during the past eighteen years. It was to the sacrifices of the good people of the Col that St. Peter's Abbey was enabled to take such an important work. He thanked them for all they had done, especially the parishioners Muenster. "This day," he said, "will go down in the history of St. Peter's Colony as a day special significance." Thirty delegates from fourteen parishes arranged an elaborate program which was carried out without a hitch under the chairmanship of W. F. Hargarten and A. W. Lochr. Edward Bruning was secretary and Father Casimir treasurer. Proceeds of the picnic which were for the interior furnishing of the College netted over $3000.00. Speeches, extolling the necessity of an institution of higher education with genuine religious guidance, were delivered by Henry M. Thieres, M.L.A., Ernest Gardner, Father J. C. Sinnett of the Irish Colony and Father Theo. Schweers, O.M.I., of Allan, Sask. Abbot Michael spoke in English, repeating in substance what he had said that morning in Ger.

The Theatrical Society of Bruno contributed number of plays that evening to a highly appreciative audience. Dana, Bruno, Carmel, Humboldt, St. Gregor and Muenster declared a half holiday. Lake Lenore a full holiday, so that the people were able to attend the function.

The College was ready for occupancy in November 1921. The transfer of the community from the abbey building north of Muenster to the new building south of town took place on November 10, 1921. At night when all the electric lights were turned on, the new College made an impressive picture. Steam heating was furnished for the first time on November 14th and the first meal prepared by the Sisters of St. Elizabeth in the new building was served on November 16. The school opened without delay, 39 students enrolling the first year. Father Fridolin was appointed Prior on October 25, shortly before the community was transferred, but was relieved of the burden a year later. November 1922 and was succeeded by Father Cas-



Fr. who remained Prior until September 1924

If Abbot Michael had done nothing more than erect the College building under the difficulties and the primitive conditions existing at the time, and put St. Peter's College on a solid basis, he would truly deserve the admiration and thanks of generations to come. But he accomplished a great deal more. The demands he had to face almost innumerable. But in his posed way, he had a method of overcoming them and the present generation can evaluate his success and bless his foresight.

The hours he allotted himself for restful re creation were few and far between. On most Sundays, especially during the summer, he visited the parishes under his care, heard confessions, preached blessed churches, or conferred the sacrament of Confirmation. The privilege to confirm outside of his territory, as the Diocese of Prince Albert which Bishop Pascal had obtained for him from the Holy See for a period of five years, demanded his absence from the Abbey for days and weeks at a time. By July 1920 he had confirmed more than a thousand persons. During the last four days June 1920, he confirmed at Leipzig, Handel and Carmelheim, in July he confirmed at Ermine Portage, Tramping Lake, Rosemeade, Scott, Macklin Crossmeadow, St. Peter, Holy Rosary Church near Salvador, and Denzil, all parishes in St. Joseph's Colony in the diocese of Prince Albert. Before this he had confirmed at Howel (now Prud'homme) and Vonda. The people of St. Joseph's Colony were particularly pleased to welcome a prelate who could preach in the German language. At that time the Abbot had already visited practically all the parishes in St. Peter's Colony. Besides this regular round of work he preached missions and retreats within the Colony and in the United States. To facilitate his local travels, the Abbey purchased its first auto, May 1920, a Dodge, from Kelly Brothers in Humboldt.

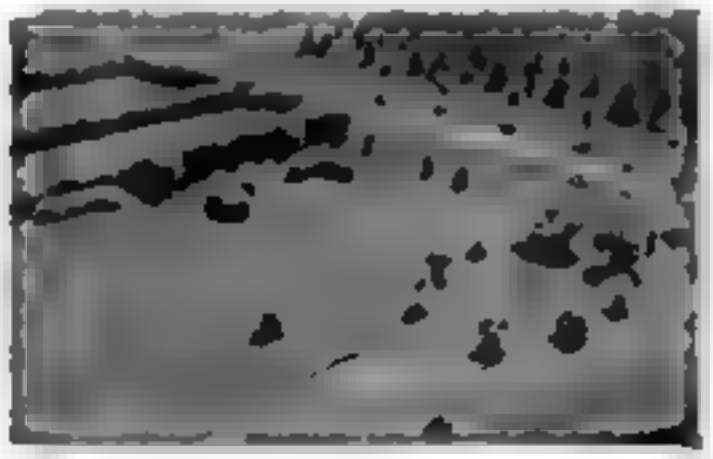
The Catholic population of St. Peter's Colony increased to approximately 9000 by June 1920, according to a census taken by the authorities of the diocese of Prince Albert. To take care of their growing numbers new churches had to be erected. The beautiful church at Willmont was blessed by Abbot Michael on June 24, 1920, the new church at Pilger on August 1, and the new church at Cudworth on September 29.

St. Joseph's Colony contributed $580 in cash the erection of St. Peter's College, when F. Hauser, the director of the drive conducted by the Knights of Columbus, visited that district. The Volksverein contributed $1,000 for the found of a German Chair at the College. Abbot M ael was edified at the generosity of the Cath ics of St. Peter's Colony which he witnessed in the short time he had been their spiritual head. They were now repaying what they must have co sidered a debt of gratitude to their pioneer priests who, seventeen years ago shared all the privations with the first settlers. Without their generosity the erection of St. Peter's College could not have been attempted. One must not overlook the fact that the settlers had to put their own homes in proper shape and erect places of worship and schools, construct roads, buy machinery, and spend money for a variety of necessary purposes.

When the Sisters of St. Elizabeth erected a hospital at Humboldt and later the one at Cudworth, they were also assisted most generously. A helping hand was likewise extended to the Ursuline Nuns when they established their motherhouse within the Colony. When Rev. Peter Klotz, O.S.B.

of Salzburg, Austria, solicited alms for the poor of Austria in the name of Cardinal Piffl, he was able to take with him the sum of $3 333.41 collected within the Colony. Substantial sums of money were sent to the suffering people of Germany and Russia after the First World War, and Father Wm. Braeck's appeals for the support of St. Patrick's [illegible] with respectable sums and supplies such as meat, flour, vegetables. Many a dollar was contributed for the missions in China, India, Africa and other missionary countries. God witnessed these varied acts of charity, and this is undoubtedly one of the reasons why He has blessed St. Peter's Colony and its inhabitants so plentifully in the past.

Here must be recorded an event which cast a pall of sadness over the whole diocese of Prince Albert — the death of Bishop Pascal. For some years he suffered intermittant severe abdominal pains, but considered them of little consequence. However, when the pains increased in 1917 he went to the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, for examination. The Doctors suspected cancer and considering the age of the venerable prelate did not think it advisable to operate. Thereupon the bishop consulted a physician in Montreal who held out the hope that by proper care his life could be prolonged. For several weeks he was a patient in St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Humboldt, where he recovered sufficiently that he could bless the new English school at Bruno on March 2, 1919. This was the last official act performed by the Bishop in St. Peter's Colony. Later on March he undertook a trip to his homeland, the diocese of Viviers, in Southern France, intending also to visit Rome, and then return to Canada. God had disposed otherwise. New attacks of his long-standing illness assailed him and on April 27, 1920, he received the sacraments of the dying. From his sick-bed he dictated a touching letter to St. Peter's Abbey, sending greetings to Abbot Michael, the sons of St. Benedict, the Venerable Ursulines and the Sisters of St. Elizabeth. The letter contained the following words: "When this letter arrives I will probably not be among the living anymore. I know. I must die. Then the good people of St. Peter's Colony will pray for me as they have done before for my recovery." The sad news of the untimely death of Abbot Bruno had been a severe shock to the good bishop and without doubt had hastened his death. He lingered for a little more than two months and died on July 14, 1920. On September 9, Abbot Michael celebrated a pontifical High Mass in the Cathedral of Prince Albert for the repose of his soul.



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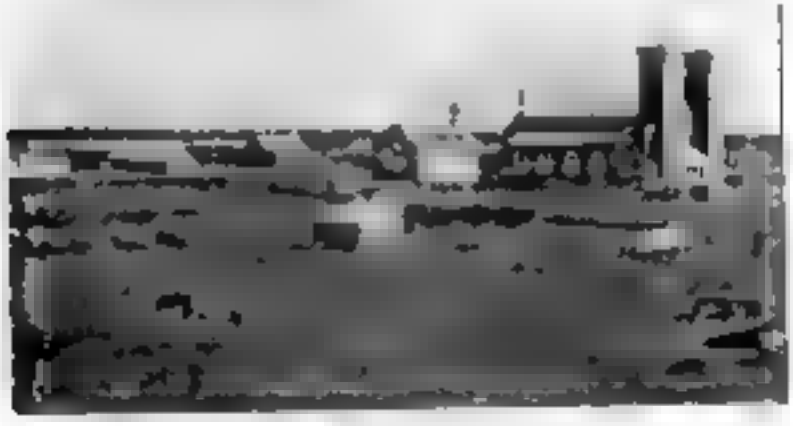
THE ABBEY NULLIUS

Bishop Pascal's love for the Benedictine Fathers and for St. Peter's Colony was truly sincere. We must not forget to mention the great favor, more like a bequest or last testament — which he conferred upon them. A few months before his death he requested the Holy See that St. Peter Abbey be elevated to the dignity of an Abbey Nullius, and that the territory in charge of the Benedictine Fathers be directly subject to the Holy See as in a real diocese. This request was graciously granted by the Holy Father under date of Mar. 6, 1921. The document, called an Apostolic Constitution, says, "Bishop Albert Pascal, having the prosperity of this colony at heart, and thinking it very expedient for the preservation of the colony to have it remain absolutely and forever under the direction and care of the Benedictine monks, humbly and urgently prayed Us before he died that the Abbey of St. Peter at Muenster with the parishes dependent on it, be erected as an Abbey Nullius Dioecesos' bearing the same name of St. Peter. In consideration of these prayers and of the religious growth of the aforesaid priory after taking counsel with our beloved sons the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, who are at the head of the Sacred Consistorial Congregation, and supplying, in so far as necessary the consent of those who are really or presumably concerned, with the plenitude of Apostolic Power, We dismember and sever the aforesaid territory known as St. Peter's Colony, from the diocese of Prince Albert and Saskatoon, to which it hitherto belonged, and erect and establish it as an Abbey Nullius, to be known as St. Peter's at Muenster under the rule and jurisdiction of the existing abbot of that Abbey, making it immediately subject to the Apostolic See. St. Peter's Church of that Abbey. We establish as the abbatial church of the newly created Abbey Nullius, which shall retain the same invocation and title. We likewise erect and establish therein the abbatial see and dignity after the manner of episcopal dignity for one abbot to be designated by the title of his Abbey, who shall rule over the church, the abbey, and the territory defined above.

Pope Benedict XV delegated His Excellency Peter di Maria, the Apostolic Delegate to Canada to preside at the canonical erection of the Abbey Nullius, but granted also the power to subdelegate this authority to another person vested with ecclesiastical dignity. The Apostolic Delegate sub-



St. Peter's Church and Girls' Dormitory

decorated. His Excellency Oliver Elzear Mathieu the Archbishop of Regina. On September 8, 192[illegible] date in the church of St. Peter at Muenster and [illegible] of an Abbey Nullius. Present at the function besides Archbishop Mathieu and his secretary, Rev. Charest, were: His Excellency Bishop Nicetas Budka, Ruthenian Bishop of Winnipeg, the newly appointed Bishop Joseph Prud'homme of Prince Albert and Saskatoon, and a large number of visit[illegible]

Sons, of Stockholm, Sask., and Father P. Rapp O.M.I., assisted Archbishop Mathieu as chaplain. Fathers P. Nicobet and Wm. Brueck O.M.I. chaplains of Bishop Budka. Fathers Th. Schmid and A. Jan, O.M.I. were chaplains of Bishop Prud'homme. Fathers Dominic and Joseph Wicke) were chaplains of Abbot Michael. Father Charest read the letter of the Apostolic Delegate empowering Archbishop Mathieu to elevate St. Peter's Abbey to an Abbey-Nullius in Latin, and Father Law[illegible] it in German. This document was then presented by the Archbishop to Abbot Michael whereupon he lead the Abbot to his throne and presented him with the pastoral staff. The members of the Abbey then approached the throne and in token of their loyalty kissed the Abbot's ring.

In his sermon the Archbishop drew a picture of heaven with its choirs of angels and its court[illegible] of this picture and have the same harmony and peace existing in heaven. He mentioned that the pastor of souls should imitate his divine Master and the souls under the pastor's care should pray for their shepherd. Bishop Budka spoke in Ger[illegible] congratulated the Abbot-Ordinary on the honor conferred upon him and St. Peter's Colony and spoke words of praise for the late Bishop Pascal. He remarked that Canada would not have a Bishop of the Ruthenian rite if Bishop Pascal in his zeal for Catholics of this rite had not so earnestly advocated the appointment of a Bishop for them.

After the memorable function, Prior Peter celebrated a Solemn High Mass, with Father Subprior Chrysostom and Father Rudolph as dea[illegible] and subdeacon, and Father Casimir as master of ceremonies. All the ministers at the altar were pioneer priests. Another pioneer, the venerable Brother Aloysius, carried the cross at the procession. Mr. W. F. Hargarten of Bruno, read a congratulatory message to the new Abbot-Ordinary pledging the fealty of the lay population within the [illegible] diocesan territory. Abbot Michael responded thanking all present, especially Archbishop Mathieu[illegible]

Father Benedict was a patient in the hospital at Saskatoon, and Father Marcellus in the hospital at St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Abbot Michael substantially increased the membership of the Abbey. Fr. Marcellus Mayer a cleric of St. John's Abbey, arrived on September 13, 1919 and Father Frobolin Teubreuil came with Abbot Michael on October 10. Fathers Dominic and Lawrence who had been in the Colony for years, but were still members of St. John's Abbey, now at the suggestion of Abbot Michael, and with the gracious consent of Abbot Peter, joined St. Peter's Abbey.

Father Marcellus was ordained by Bishop Ovid Charlebois O.M.I. on March 20, 1920, on the [illegible] the feast of St. Benedict and offered his first Solemn High Mass at Cold Springs, Minn., April

.1. 1920, where Father Meinrad was then pastor When he returned to Muenster on May 5, he was accompanied by another cleric of St. John's Abbey Fr Aurelius Rader who wished to join St Peter's Abbey. Father Aurelius was ordained by Bishop Busch of St Cloud, Minn., June 9, .923, and had his first Solemn Mass on June 7 in his home parish, St Leo, Minn. On the same day Father Aurelius was ordained, Bishop Busch also ordained he first young man God called to from St Peter's Colony Father Theodore Doepker O.S.B. He celebrated his first Solemn High Mass at Annaheim, June 17, 1923, and Abbot Michael delivered the festive sermon

On July 4, 1921 the following five young men arrived at Muenster Erwin Kuchne, Bernard Hable Bernard Lohmer Leonard Benning, and Joseph Bechtold Excepting the latter they had finished their classical course at St John's University, and came to join St Peter's Abbey Next day, they began their retreat together with another candidate Casimir Montvydas, who had studied a St. Bede's Abbey, Peru, Illinois They entered the novitiate on July 11 the feast of the Solemnity of St Benedict, and were given the following n religion Erwin Kuchne, Frater Paul; Casimir Montvydas, Frater Bonaventure; Bernard Hable Frater John; Bernard Lohmer, Frater Francis; and Leonard Benning, Frater Leonard. Joseph Bechtold, after finishing his studies, was admitted to the novitiate later in the year made his profession December .0, 1922, and later decided he had no vocation to the priesthood Several years ago he was accidentally killed while sawing off a ree in his yard. Frater Bonaventure was admitted to profession on July 26, 1922 but deciding God did not intend him for the priesthood left for a time and returned in 1928 as a candidate for the Brotherhood. For many years Brother Bonaventure has been in charge of the refectories and is nigh

into the Order in .919, as Fr Cosmas, and ordained December 23, 1923, by Bishop Pe homme in St Paul's Church at Saskatoon He had his first Solemn Mass in the Cathedral at Muenster, January .3, 1924 Father Wilfrid Hergott O.S.B a son of the Parish of Bruno was ordained 27 1924 He was the second priest fr St Peter's Colony Father Wilfrid and Father Theodore made most of their studies at St John's Abbey. Fathers Paul, John, Francis and Leo ordained by Archbishop Dowling of St Paul. n. at St Bernard's Church in that City 2 .925. Abbot Michael preached the ser at the first Solemn Highmass of each of them, celebrated in their respective home parishes. Father Stephan Mohocko came to St Paul, Minn. on September 3, 1921 ordained May 29, 1926

O.S.B., who enjoyed this distinction on October silver jubilee at Humboldt, August 8, 1922 golden jubilee also at Humboldt June 29, 1947 Father Matthias celebrated his at Marysburg, May 25 1924, Father Rudolph at Loofeld, June .1 928, Father Rudolph at Lake Lenore, June

Bernard at Bruno, May 25, 193., Father Casi at Codworth June .0, 193. Father Joseph Sittenauer, a class-mate of Abbot Michael at International Benedictine College in Rome and a member of St Benedict's Abbey, Atchison who had joined St Peter's Abbey in 1922 could celebrate his golden jubilee at the Abbey on June

bilee in St Augustine's Church at Humboldt, July .926, and his golden jubilee on July 2, 1951 Elizabeth's Hospital. Father Prior Peter had the to celebrate his silver jubilee in his home parish n Germany on August 15, .928, Father Chryses-

function, only a solemn Highmass, and his example followed by Father Matthew on March 27 946. Father Marcellus celebrated his silver jubilee

er of .945 Father Cosmas held his 25th an

December 9, 1948, and Father Theodore had n his parish at Watson on June 3 of the same ye Father Wilfrid had his anniversary in his home parish of Bruno in the summer of 1949. A

d June 30, 1950 at the age of 92 years. He celebrated his golden jubilee at Fulda and Wil October 6 and October 13, 1935

diamond jubilee at the hospital at Cudworth in the ate fall of 1945. Fathers Paul, John, Francis and Leonard celebrated their jubilees in 1950 and Father Stephen in the summer of 1951

On June 24 1921 Abbot Michael blessed the beautiful Church of St John at Willmont which had been erected under the direction of Father Lawrence On December 23 Father Abbot blessed the basement church of Our Lady of Victory the third Catholic Church in Saskatoon On August 15 he blessed the beautiful brick church of the Assumption at Marysburg. This church replaced the frame structure which had been demolished by the storm of June 27, 1919 On August 21 he blessed cornerstones for the church and parish school at Lake Lenore. On October 16, 1921, he blessed the new church at Bruno and on October 23, the new basement church of the Sacred Heart at Wat

St Peter's College was blessed by the Abbot November 27, at 8:00 o'clock in the morning in the presence of the community. On December 14 1921, he conferred ecclesiastical tonsure in the College chapel on Frs. Cosmas, Wilfrid, Anselm and Theodore and on December 17 and 18 the four minor orders. This was the first time minor orders were conferred in the College chapel and [redacted] ration to the students

Since an Abbot of an Abbey Nullius like any bishop of a diocese, is obliged to make an "ad limina" journey to Rome, the bishops of Europe every five years and other bishops every ten years Abbot Michael set out for Rome on April 6, 1922 to visit the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul and to give an account of the condition of St Peter s Abbey Nullius to the Holy Father He had his audience with the Holy Father on June 9, conversing with him in German. Pope Pius XI did not allow the Abbot to kiss his sandal as visitors are expected to do, but requested him to sit on a [redacted] beside him. The Pope was very pleased with the report of the Abbot and commissioned him to impart the Apostolic Blessing in every parish and mission. Toward the end of the audience the Holy Father opened a drawer of his desk and presented a handful of blessed medals On July 15, Abbot Michael returned from Rome and the people of the Colony extended a cordial welcome at the portico of the church. Joseph Bretton, Grand Knight of the Humboldt Council of the Knights [redacted] check for $400.00, as a gift from the Knights. The Abbot spoke feelingly of his visit to the Holy Father and imparted his pontifical blessing

Father Joseph Sittenauer a member of St Benedict's Abbey Atchison, Kansas, a close friend of Abbot Michael, arrived with the Abbot He had decided to join St Peter's Abbey, and was a valuable aid to the community as Subprior, teacher of theology, and editor of St Peter's Bote. During the absence of Abbot Michael in Rome, Peter Fiedelin invested the following young men as

July 1., John Seifermann, a nephew of Father Meinrad, as Frater Sylvester, Henry Boeck [redacted] as Frater Luke. Aloysius Henriges as Frater Aloysius, and George Leadway, a candidate for the lay-brotherhood, as Brother Edmund

Fathers Sylvester, Luke, Aloysius and Xavier ordained by Bishop Jos. Prud'homme, of Prince Albert on July 29, 1928, the last day of the silver jubilee celebration of St. Peter's C[redacted] Father Xavier Benning, whose baptismal name [redacted] Elmer was clothed with the Benedictine habit on July 11 1923, and made his profession a year later He is a brother of Fathers Leonard and Edward and was appointed Subprior shortly after the death of Father Joseph Sittenauer in 1946. Since the fall of 1937 he has been Rector of St Peter's College Father Sylvester died in the Hospital at Humboldt November 3, 1939 and Brother Edmund, died in St Paul's Hospital at Saskatoon, April 17 1937

Father Ignatius Groll O.S.B., a member of St Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, gave considerable aid to St. Peter's College about this [redacted] He was an excellent musician especially proficient at the piano. He taught music and [redacted] organized theatrical groups at the College and the parishes A number of his musical [redacted] sitions, among them "Abbey Chimes" have been played over the radio in the United States He arrived at Muenster during 1921 and left Canada Colorado in July of 1924. Later he returned his home Abbey and died of heart failure March 30 1934

On December 8 1922, Abbot Michael blessed the new church at Lake Lenore. On July 15, 1923 he blessed the cornerstone of the [redacted] ch of St Gregor. on October 21 of the

year, the completed church, and on December 23 the 1800 lb. bell. The new separate school at Watson was blessed by the Abbot on January 1, 1924 and the basement church at Annaheim, replacing the frame building destroyed by fire, on September 4. On October 11, 1924 he blessed the new house of the Ursuline Nuns teaching in the Watson Separate School and also said the first Mass in their chapel. On November 20 he blessed the parish house at Fulda, and on December 14 the temporary hospital at Cudworth.

On May 10, 1925 a new mission was opened by Father Chrysostom in the young town of Na and steps were taken to build a church. For the time being, Mass was celebrated in the town hall once a month. In January 1926 six acres of land were purchased at the north west corner of the town and it was estimated that about $10,000 would be required to build a church and a parish house. A building committee was appointed and by September 1926 the church was practically finished.

On December 6, 1922, after a High Mass in honor of the Holy Ghost, celebrated by Father Peter in the Cathedral Church, delegates from all parts of St. Peter's Colony gathered in the hall at Muenster and held the first convention of the St. Peter's Colony School Trustees' Association which was heartily endorsed by Abbot Michael. The Abbot addressed the assembly on the rights of Catholic parents, and the duty of giving their children a thorough Christian education. The convention adopted a constitution, did much to clarify the stand of Catholics in the school question and led to the organization of the Catholic School Trustees' Association of the province.

In May 1925 Abbot Michael preached a three day retreat to the young ladies, the Children of Mary, in St. Augustine's Church, Humboldt and in October he preached at the Forty Hours devotion at Freeport, Minnesota. On his return he attended the Bishop's Conference in Regina at which Archbishop Mathieu of Regina, Archbishop Beliveau of St. Boniface, Archbishop Sinnot of Winnipeg, Bishop Prud'homme of Prince Albert and Bishop Charlebois of Le Pas were present. On New Year's Day 1926, Abbot Michael celebrated a Pontifical High Mass in St. Augustine's Church, Humboldt and in his sermon stressed again the importance of a thorough religious education for all Catholic children. On January 3, 6 and 10, 1926, he conferred tonsure and the four minor orders on Frs. Sylvester, Luke, Aloysius and Xavier, and in February he preached the annual students' retreat at the College. On March 4, 1926, he and Father Matthew, went to Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to preach the Forty Hours devotion. On the feast of Pentecost, May 23, Abbot Michael preached at St. Benedict and conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on 90 persons of St. Benedict's Parish and St. Leo's Mission. This was the last public official function of Abbot Michael as Ordinary of the Abbey Nul

On May 29 the Abbot Visitators of the American Cassinese Congregation of Benedictines, Rt. Rev. Ernest Helmstetter, Abbot of St. Mary's Abbey, Newark, N. J. and Rt. Rev. Charles Molu, Abbot of St. Leo's Abbey, St. Leo, Florida, arrived and conducted the triennial visitation of St. Peter's Abbey. They left on June 3, with Abbot Michael who preached at the first solemn High Mass of Father Stephen Mohorko, in the church of St. Francis de Sales in St. Paul, Minnesota. A little later he conducted the annual retreat of the diocesan clergy of St. Cloud, and of the Benedictine Fathers of St. John's Abbey. When he arrived in Chicago to attend the Eucharistic Congress from June 20 to 24, he became quite ill and was confined to a hospital. Fathers Dominic, Leo, Bernard and Marcellus who also attended the Eucharistic Congress visited him there and found him rather disheartened.

For many years Abbot Michael had found it necessary to consult physicians. After rest and in Chicago he was sufficiently recovered to accompany the Rt. Rev. Fidelis von Stotzingen, the Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Order, then in North America to visit all the Benedictine houses to Muenster where they arrived on August 7, 19 A letter from the Holy See awaited Abbot Michael. It contained the astonishing news: "Your resignation as Abbot Ordinary of the Abbey Nullius of St. Peter at Muenster, Sask., Canada, has been accepted." One can imagine the surprise of the community and the territory at this message, for he had not informed them of his resignation. How-

Abbot Michael had resigned and the Holy Father had accepted the resignation. Like a comforting

of the kind hearted Abbot Primate

The stupendous work done by Abbot Michael

ter's Colony from 1919 to 1926 speak louder than words. At his arrival in the fall of 1919 St. Peter's

clerics and 7 lay brothers. Abbot Mihael left Muenster with the Abbot Primate on August 926, and went to St. Martin's Abbey, Lacey

assisted teaching Philosophy. In 1928 he was chaplain of St. Joseph's Orphanage in St. Paul, Minn. in 1931 he took over the chaplaincy of the Benedictine Sisters' Convent at Crookston, Minn. which office he held until a few months before his death. At Crookston he had the joy to observe golden sacerdotal jubilee, June 29, 944, which

s taken to St. Peter's Abbey and after a solemn

The chapter members of St. Peter's Abbey assembled on August 13, 1926 and, as in a diocese where the bishop has died or resigned, elected a Vicar Capitular according to the prescriptions of Canon Law, to administer the territory of the Abbey Nullius until a new Abbot Ordinary was elected and confirmed by the Holy See. The members of the community elected Father Peter. He had

of Abbot Michael in October of the

According to the Statutes of the Benedictine Order Father Prior is to take over the management of the in case of the death or the resignation of the Abbot until a new Abbot is elected. Now in addition to the affairs of the Abbey, the task of administering the territory of the Abbey Nullius was placed on his shoulders.

He received the solemn vows of Frs. S Luke, Aloysius and the perpetual vows of Brother Edmund, on July 12, and blessed the new church on July 25, 1926.

Bishop Pascal on Lake Lemon, setting out for St. Peter's

The preceding pages have shown how St Peter's College came into existence, how Abbot Michael strove to give St Peter's Colony a first class institution of higher learning, and how well he succeeded. It would be wrong to conclude that nothing was done to educate young men and to prepare them for the priesthood before Abbot Michael's time. Though conditions in the days were most primitive the Benedictine Fathers in spite of many occupations and difficulties, did not lose sight of the need for education. Father John Balfrey taught the children at the Muenster district in that part of the log church which could be partitioned off and was not used for divine service on week days. Skilful as a carpenter, he had made the benches for the children. Father Chr

Rudolph at Humboldt. Father Peter well r bers the class room in the annex on the east side of monastery No. 2, where he taught moral theology to Fathers Rudolph Leo, Casimir and Bernard at the same time that Father John was hammering away on the north side of the same building. These young men were still preparing for the priesthood. Whenever supplies on hand declined they put aside their books, harnessed horses to heavy wagons and set out on the long trip to Rosthern to bring food, lumber and other necessities, making a trip which usually lasted about a

Father Matthias taught Latin to Brother Adolph Steiger who felt called to the priesthood. In 1904 after the expiration of his triennial vows Brother Adolph left the Colony because he th it impossible to complete his studies within a sonable time under primitive conditions, and he was already 23 years old he wanted to reach his goal as soon as possible. (He continued his studies at the Benedictine College and Seminary of St Meinrad, Indiana, a generous lady of Westphalia owa, financing his studies, and he was ordained priest June 4, 1914, for the diocese of Des M Iowa. Father Steiger's love for St. Peter's Colony motivated him to visit Canada several time

in one of his sermons delivered in Muenster he said: "From 1903 to 1904 I served as cook for St

spiritual banquets." He was pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Earling, Iowa, for many years. Here he witnessed the expulsion of evil spirits from a young lady by the exorcisms of the saintly Capuchin Father Theophilus Roesinger of Appelton, Wisconsin. He died on November 6, 1938.

Other young men under instruction in the days were Hugo Schwaiger, Placidus Wolf Aloysius Nadolski, Robert Wickel, Philip Wart Frederick Sattelberger and Matthew Michel. Hugo Schwaiger, whose name after his profession was Frater Maurus, left after the expiration of his triennial vows, married, and has a family of 1 children, five boys and six girls, one of whom is a Franciscan nun. Frater Sattelberger also left after his vows expired and married. He died in 195 ter Placid often accompanied the Fathers to their distant missions in the pioneer days and assisted them with his sonorous voice at High Masses. He became mentally ill and has been in a hospital for over 40 years. Aloysius Nadolski left the com by in 1906, married and became the father a large family. For many years he edited a weekly Catholic paper the "North-Dakota Herald." He died in 1951. Fr. Philip Wartmann transferred to St. Leo's Abbey, Florida, and was ordained

Father Matthew Michael completed his theological studies at Muenster, was ordained by Bishop Charlebois at Le Pas, Manitoba on March 1921. Fathers Theodore, Aurelius, Cosmas, Wil Paul, John, Francis, Leonard, Stephen, Sylvester Luke, Aloysius, Xavier, Gregory, Augustine and Alphonse completed their classical course in the new St. Peter's College prior to their philosophy and theology, and may therefore be considered the first fruits of St. Peter's College.

The first student to enter St. Peter's College John Nelson of Edmonton, Alta. He and Robert O'Hara of St. Paul, Minn., served as the first prefects of discipline in 1921, and as a symbol of authority they wore a cassock over their regular clothing. John Nelson arrived on October 29, 192 before the new college building was completed

and since there was no room in the old monastery he made his abode as best he could in the finished building. Rev. Lewis Gawron, a deacon, was the first Prefect of Studies an office which later merged with that of Rector. He was a seminarian when he arrived at Muenster and was ordained as a secular priest at Trampong Lake, Sask. by Bishop Pindhammer, July 27, 1924. He left Muenster December 3, 1924 to act as an emigration agent at Winnipeg. He was stricken with a severe illness and died in eastern Canada about ten years ago. Father Wilfrid was Rector from September 1924 until June 30, 193

The first years of the College were very difficult and Abbot Michael and his staff had to face many problems. One of these was to meet the requirements of a Junior College affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan. These were met readily and the course in Second Year Arts was opened in 926. Fathers Cosmas, Paul, Wilfrid and Jerome attended universities, the former two the University of Minnesota and the latter two the the University of Saskatchewan, qualifying to teach university subjects. For a number of years Father Matthew attended the Catholic University in Washington, D.C., returning in 1931 with a Ph.D. degree in Education, and thereupon was appointed rector of the College. After four years he was succeeded by Father Xavier, who has retained the position. After the death of Father Subprior Joseph Sittenauer, September 1946, Father Xavier also became Subprior of the Abbey. In August 1942 Father Gregory acquired a degree in French at the University of Laval, Quebec, and, Father Philip spent a few years at the International Benedictine College, in Rome. Father Leo Hinz, O.S.B. ordained June 3, 1950, was sent that year to the University of Ottawa to study Canon Law.

Since reason tells us that religion is of the highest importance, St. Peter's College from the beginning taught religion, beside the other subjects of the curriculum. The students attend daily Mass and many are daily communicants. Since 1941 except for the two years he spent in the Sanatorium Father Augustine has been their chaplain. Before 1941 this position was held by Father Wilfrid. Father Abbot Severin usually conducts a series of talks on vocations and other spiritual topics during the course of the year. The students likewise receive much benefit from their annual retreat.

A sound mind needs a sound body. Organized sports are not neglected and football, handball, volley ball, basket ball, hockey, baseball, softball, tennis, and other games are played in their season. St. Michael's Literary and Dramatic Society was founded the first year the College was in existence and has been active ever since. Its members arranged for a debate on May 29, 1922 to discuss the pros and cons of the tariff question. Albert Nenzel (now Father Augustine) and Henry Willick, Marcelin, Sask., upheld the affirmative, while Alovsius Herriges (now Father Aloysius) and Ernest Miller, Cudworth, spoke for the negative. The judges were Hy. M. Thevenaz, M.L.A., J. W. MacDonald, Barrister at Bruno, Adrien Dolron, Barrister at Vonda, and Jos. Borton of Humboldt. Sufficient did both sides argue the question that the prize, $10 in gold donated by the Volksverein, was equally divided between the contestants.

On May 21, 1922, the students staged their first of many plays. Students partaking were Bernard Prie, Aloysius Herriges, Alphonse Weber, Lambert Lemmerich, Benedict Hargarten, Henry Willick, John Seifermann and John Moodweil.

During the early years much assistance was given by Father Ignatius who taught Music, German, and Religion, and by Father Daniel O'Sullivan, English, Church History and Exegesis. Father O'Sullivan joined the Archdiocese of Winnipeg in 1925. It can be easily understood that at this time it was necessary for the Fratres Clerici, studying for the priesthood, to assist in teaching some subjects.

During the relatively short period of its existence, the College has helped to prepare a long list of young men for their later life, some as exemplary laymen, others as as equally exemplary workers among the diocesan and regular clergy. Today the school founded by Abbot Michael receives many more applications than it can accomodate, about 100 being enrolled annually.

A notable distinction was won by a student of St. Peter's College on May 9, 1927 when Julius Poszar of Young, Sask., aged 16, a student in Grade XI was declared the winner of the Saskatchewan championship in the Dominion and Inter-

national Oratorial contest held at Regina. Students of 216 secondary schools took part. He was awarded the gold medal, two hundred dollars, and a trip to Ottawa, expenses paid, for the Dominion finals. There he won a high standing among the national contestants.

St. Peter's College has many friends, which is attested by the crowds which come to its dramatic performances, elocution contests and other performances. At present the dramatics are under the direction of Father Augustine. Usually when a performance is staged the hall, erected in 1942, is not capable of holding all the visitors, although the performances are staged several times. The loyalty of the alumni is wonderful. Old students drop in frequently to exchange greetings with the faculty and at Christmas time hundreds of letters and cards pour into the Rector's Office expressing thanks, good will and loyalty. The periodic Alumni gatherings are gala events as old students renew old acquaintances and relive their college days.

The following Benedictine priests made either all or part of their studies at St. Peter's College: Fathers Aurelius Rader, Theodore Doenker, Cosmas Krumpelmann, Wilfrid Hergott, Paul Kuehne, John [illegible], Stephen Mohorko, Luke Boeckmann, Augustus Henriges, Sylvester Seidenmann, Xavier Benning, Gregory Gasser, Augustine Nenzel, Alphonse Ludwig, Norbert Schwinghammer, Edward Benning, William Gebben, George Brodner, Martin Brodner, Philip Loehr, Jerome Weber, Alfred Engels, Florian Rennebery, Roman Schneider, Albert Ruetz, Leo Hinz and Leander Dosch. At the time of writing two deacons, Fr. James Gray and Fr. Vincent Morrison, are completing their theological studies at St. John's Abbey, Minnesota, Father John Zeman of Kenaston, Sask. also studied at St. Peter's College and is now a member of St. Andrew's Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio. Four clerics are studying philosophy at St. John's Abbey, Frates Werner Rennebeg, Daniel Gerwing, Joseph Ackerman and Anselm Gerwing. Another member of the Abbey who had completed his classical course at the College, Frater Joseph Kelly was sent to St. John's for his novitiate, but died there by drowning, August 11, 1946. This was a severe blow to his Family and to the Abbey. His remains were brought back to Muenster and interred in the Abbey cemetary.

Besides these Benedictines, the College since 921 was instrumental in training at least 43 other young men for the priesthood, among them: ten for the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, six for the Redemptorists, 23 for the secular clergy, two for the LaSalette Fathers, one for the Society of Jesus. A goodly number of others are at present in various novitiates and seminaries preparing themselves for the priesthood.

The Benedictine Brothers

Speaking of the religious state, St Bernard ... in it a man lives more purely, falls less frequently, rises more speedily, acts more circumspectly, receives richer measures of graces, dies more hopefully, is purified more quickly and rewarded more abundantly" If the Catholic would reflect upon these words more seriously the Lord would surely multiply the vocations to the ...

When the Benedictines moved into Saskatchewan there were only two Brothers to accompany them Brother Adolph Steiger who a year later left Canada as has been chronicled, and Bro Bruno Fuchs, a novice who left during the course of his ... ate Alovsius Gleissner, a candidate for the Brotherhood accompanied the group in May 1903 He had been a Benedictine lay Brother at St. Vincent Archabbey in Pennsylvania, but later had left the Order He was re-invested by Prior Alfred May 24, 1904, received into the novitiate and ad... At that time he was 48 years old

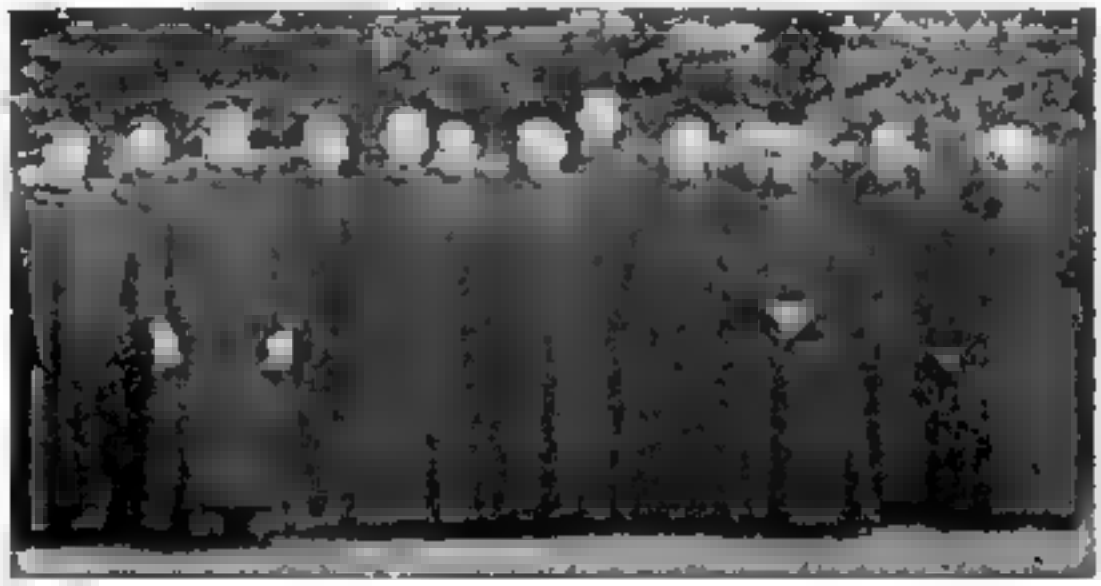
Brothers are necessary for the well-being of a religious community: many a good work would be left undone if it were not for the help given by them. They share in all spiritual favors granted to a religious community They serve at Holy Mass or assist at it, act as sacristans, make their daily ... spiritual reading, examination of conscience, pray the rosary at the same time that priests of the community recite the Divine Office see to the cleanliness of the house work in the printing establishment, in the powerhouse, kitchen laundry, bakery, carpenter shop, in the garden ... calls them

Brother Adolph was a skilful cook and provided many tasty meals for the small community though often the most necessary ingredients ... biscuits they were called on those days near the log cabin monastery, as a pan over an open fire They resembled balls of lead more than anything edible, and the good brother pitched them in the Wolverine Creek On another occasion he discovered that a number of loaves of bread disappeared during the night from the cellar, a hole beneath monastery No. 2. He investigated carefully and found that the thieves were two skunks. He summoned Father Rudolph, the abbot of the small community, who quickly exterminated the marauders, with results easily imagined No imagination was needed by the monks living in ... house at the time! Another incident according occurred during the summer of 1907 when an Indian walked into the tiny kitchen without knocking. Brother Adolf was frightened but offered the unbidden guest a cup of milk This drink must have been delicious, since the ... the only one owned by the monks at that had recently consummed the holy water the stand at the entrance of the tent chapel and the flowers from the altar Later, the Indian paid another visit, squatted on the kitchen floor and placed a large, unsightly knife at his feet Again the Brother offered what hospitality was available invoking his guardian angel for protection Nothing untoward happened and later the Brother was told by one who knew Indian ways that the visitor merely wished to show that he was friendly! The holy water font mentioned above was a hollowed limestone resembling a huge and heavy wash basin which Father Peter found on the bank of the Wolverine Creek and carried to the chapel tent. Father John made a stand for it out of poplar poles. For many years the stone holy water font has been in the museum

Supplying the community with a good cook in the Canadian wilderness was a perplexing problem for many years though all was well enough as ... as Brother Adolph was in the monastery Later Brother Alovsius took over his position. He had some knowledge of cooking, but was by no ... proficient and all the members had ravening appetites For a short time two Sisters of Providence from Howell (now Prud'homme) were in charge of the kitchen, and later Mrs. Gerard Kuemper She was followed by Mr. and Mrs Pierre et St Gregor, then Mr and Mrs P Klotz of

St Gregor and others. Abbot Peter of St. John's Abbey in April 1909 sent Brother William Baldus O.S.B. an excellent cook. However, on account the severe climate, he returned to his own Abbey after a month's stay. The difficult problem was [illegible] Sisters of St. Elizabeth came to Canada and took over the management of the kitchen and the [illegible]

When the first contingent of Benedictines moved to Saskatchewan in May, 1903, three mem[illegible] banus Canonicus Father Matthias stayed until March 1904 while Frater Leo and Brother Rhaban left for Canada and arrived at the Priory in October [illegible] ary 5, 1849 at New Orleans, Louisiana. A French father and a negro mother who had formerly been a slave. He was an expert cook and had served as such in a wealthy establishment at New Orleans. He entered the Order of St. Benedict at St. Vincent Archabbey, Pennsylvania, and was admitted to vows on February 2, 1879. He had received the name of Arthur at his baptism, now he [illegible] given the name of the great Benedictine saint [illegible] Vincent, at Savannah Georgia, and at St. Be[illegible] Abbey, Cullman, Alabama. About 1900 he was confined to the hospital at Memphis, Tennessee, where he underwent an operation for a severe hernia. The operation, however, was not successful. From Memphis he went to Cluny, Illinois, to aid Prior Oswald Moosmueller's struggling establishment, again being employed as cook. At Muenster Prior Alfred appointed him porter of the monastery and janitor. His greatest joy was to attend the



Left to right: Brothers Michael, Bruno, Joseph, Bernard, Oswald, Conrad, Anton, John, Gregory Aloysius, Justus, Ramon and Abraham. Missing from Photo Br. Benno[illegible]

room of Bishop Pascal whenever that prelate visited the monastery, for then he was able to make use of his knowledge of French. He loved to speak French, though his knowledge of English was perfect and he could also make himself understood in German. Everybody loved the powerfully built Brother Rhabanus, with his long white beard and dark complexion. The children especially were drawn to him, and often rang the bell just to see his kindly face. He was regular as a clock faithfully ringing the bell every morning to rouse the monks and in general was an exemplary religious. The last five years of his life he was a patient at St Elizabeth's Hospital Humboldt where he edified all by his patience and resignation amid great suffering. He died January 25

Father Prior celebrated

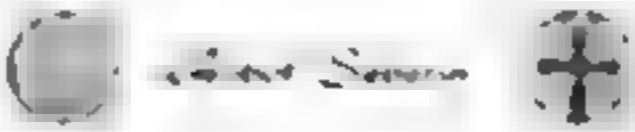
Mass with Fathers Leo and Joseph Wichel as and subdeacons. He was buried in St Peter's Parish cemetery, but his remains were later re-interred in the Abbey cemetery. Brother Rhabanus was the first Brother of St Peter's Abbey to be called to his reward

The next member of the brotherhood to be called was Brother Edmund Lendway, who died on April 17 1937 Brother Edmund was born Hungary, was invested by Prior Fridolin July 1922, and made his profession on July 12, 1923 He was very useful on the Abbey farm, taking care of the chickens, milking cows, butchering, later assisting in the printing office and binding books He contracted tuberculosis and spent two in the Saskatoon sanatorium, shortly before his death he underwent an operation in St. Paul's Hospital. He died April 17 1937 in the 42nd year of his life

The third Brother whom St Peter's lost death was Brother Aloysius. Some incidents of his life have already been recorded. He was born in Bavaria and joined the small community of Canadian Benedictines on the invitation of Prior Peter Repeatedly he acted as cook, porter, gardner and as caretaker of the cells of the Fathers, until age and infirmity confined him to his room and ed. He died at the ripe old age of 82 on Novem 3, 1939

At present there are 14 Brothers at St. Peter's Abbey They are Brothers Justus Trettel, professed January 1 1909. Anthony Wisniewski, January 21 923. Joseph Perry, July 16, 1925, Alexius Krippeter November 14, 1928, Bonaventure Montyadas, March 12, 1929. Dominic Distel July 8, 1930 Gregory Brodnet, June 30, 1932, John Brodner, uly 3, 1933, Conrad Abs, August 3, 1940. Oswald King, January 29, 1941 Bruno Konecsan, June 2 1941, Bernard Lange, March 21, 1949. Michael Deck, June 16, 1951, and Aloysius Lange June 16 195

Brother Justus formerly belonged to St. John's Abbey, but joined St. Peter's Abbey April 21 1924 He has a wide range of talents and is experienced as carpenter, blacksmith, mechanic, builder, farmer, etc. He is the senior of the Brothers, not in age but in the years he has been a religious. Brothers Anthony and Bonaventure are night watchmen, the latter being also in charge of the community and student refectories, while the former is a janitor on the students' floors Brother Joseph performs janitor work on the Abbey floors. Brother Alexius, though 78 years of age, is still a highly successful gardener Brothers Dominic, Conrad and Michael are engaged in the Print Shop. Brother Gregory is the meer, supplying light and heat to the building Brother John assists him in this, and in his spare time cares for the nursery and orchard and the grounds surrounding the building. Brother Bruno is in charge of the herd of Yorkshire hogs Brother Oswald works in the carpenter shop and is in charge of the apiary Brother Bernard is quite an expert with the farm tractors and his example is followed in summer by his brother Aloysius, who kept busy as janitor on the student's floors



Though St Peter's Abbey and the territory of the Abbey Nullius were in grief when the news of Abbot Michael's resignation reached them, events proceeded normally during the time the abbatial throne was vacant. Father Cyril of Fort Wayne Indiana, preached Missions at Leofeld Cudworth, Carmel, St. Scholastica, Assumption Engelfeld and St Gregor, beginning on July 11 1926 and ending with a retreat for the Sisters at Bruno and the Sisters at Humboldt, August 2 Father Cyril was a member of the Congregation of the Precious Blood. Prior Peter, substituting for the Abbot, received the vows of Fratres Gregory Gasser, Augustine Nemmel, Alphonse Ludwig, Michael Zeman, Severin Cassezza and Anthony Bernung. (The last two named left after the expiration of their vows, while Fr Michael Zeman transferred to St Andrew's Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio there his religious name was changed to Fr. John.) The ceremony took place in St Peter's Church Muenster. Prior Peter represented the Abbey at the Katholikentag in Regina, July 7 and 8, where Dr Ignaz Seipel, the Chancellor of the Government of Austria addressed the Volksverein on several occasions and attended all its meetings. On July 13 and 14 Prior Peter was present at the District Katholikentag at Engelfeld, and on July 27 at the District Katholikentag at Salvador in the St Joseph's Colony. On August 17, 1926 he received the triennial vows of Sisters Agnes, Dolores, Frances Aquina, Martha and Cecilia in the convent chapel of the Ursulines at Bruno and the perpetual vows of Sister Catherine on August 28. On November 21, 1926, he presided at the investment of two young ladies entering the Order of St Elizabeth and received the triennial vows of Sisters Dominica and Floriana.

Meanwhile, during the summer of 1926 work was proceeding on the new St Michael's Hospital at Cudworth, under the direction of Fr Casimir so that it could be officially opened on De 17. At Naicam a new church dedicated to St George, was built under the direction of Fr. Chris

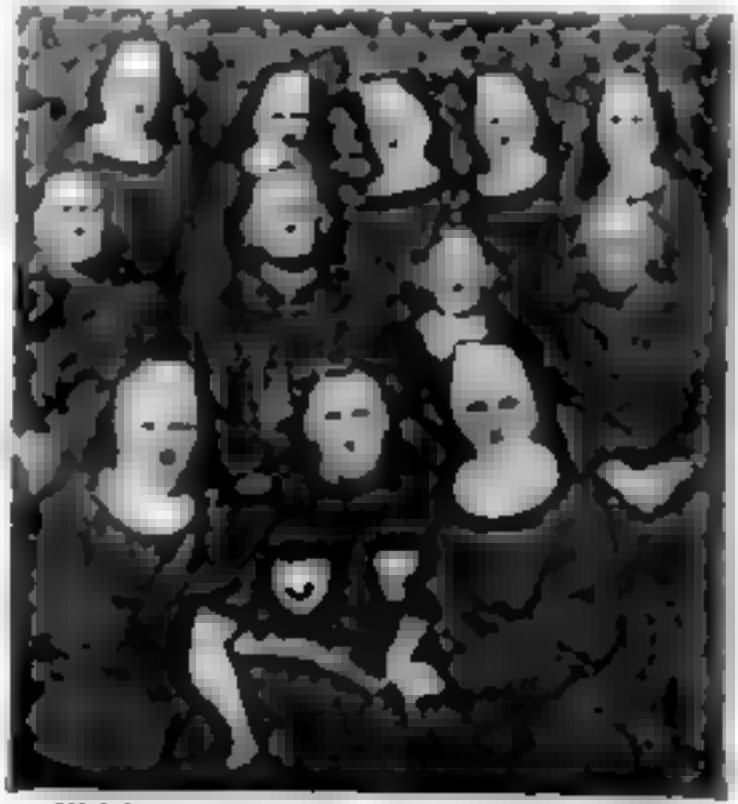
September 8, 1926 was a very important day for St Peter's Abbey Nullius. The feast day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, it was the day set for the election of a new Abbot. Prayers to the Holy Ghost were offered by the community weeks before, and on the eve of the election a preliminary discussion took place under the guidance of the Rt Rev Ernest Helmstetter, O.S.B., Abbot of St Mary's Abbey, Newark, N.J., then President of the American Cassinese Congregation of Benedictines. All capitulars of the Abbey were present excepting Father Bernard who was in Europe, and Father Cosmas who was a patient at Rochester Minn. After Mass in honor of the Holy Ghost the chapter members assembled in one of the larger rooms of the Abbey and under the supervision of Abbot Ernest elected Father Severin Gerken, O. S. B., a member of St John's Abbey. A telegram was sent to St. John's Abbey, and the Abbot-elect after prayer and after receiving the consent of his Abbot wired his acceptance. Following this all capitulars assembled in the chapel and chanted the Te Deum. Abbot Ernest completed the necessary documents to be forwarded to the Holy See for the approbation and confirmation of the election by the Sacred Consistorial Congregation. This Congregation ratified the election under date of October 5, 1926, and the Acta Apostolicae Sedis, the official Vatican publication, published it under date of November 3, of the same year, though the papal documents arrived at Muenster only on February 1927. They were immediately forwarded to the new Abbot, and on February 17 1927 he came to his future home. In spite of the inclemency of the weather he was given a warm welcome at the stations along the way. Watson, Engelfeld, St Gregor and finally at Muenster, where a throng of school children and members of the parish and diocese had gathered. Abbot Severin was impressed with this cordial reception, and in an announcement in the St Peter's Bote and the St Peter's Messenger thanked the people and compared his

Rt. Rev. [illegible], D.D., second Abbot-Ordinary

ith a homecoming. At the end of his mes sage he quoted the words of the first letter of S John, 3, 18, "My little children, let us not love in word, nor in tongue, but in deed and in truth" He selected May 4 for his solemn blessing. The new Abbot was not a stranger to the Fathers at St Peter's Abbey, since practically all knew from their stay at St John's, where many had him as professor, and he had visited St Peter's Color 906 and 1916

Abbot Severin was born at Richmond, Minne sota, July 26, 1881, the son of Lucas and Margareth Gertken. Mr. Gertken was born in Germany and taught school there until he emigrated to the United States and took up his profession in Minnesota. He taught for a time at St Martin and later at Richmond, rounding out a period of about 50 years of teaching. He raised a family of thirteen children of whom seven daughters became Benedictine Sisters at St Benedict's Convent, St Joseph, Minn., and four sons who became Bene dictine monks at St John's Abbey, Collegeville Minn., namely Fathers Innocent, Severin, Norbert and Alban. Father Alban died as a deacon on November 14, 1923, about half a year before com pleting his studies for the priesthood. At Baptism Abbot Severin received the name James. He re ceived his early education in the school his father taught, and later attended St John's University, Collegeville, and entered the novitiate in 1901 receiving the name Severin. He was admitted to pro fession on July 11, 1902, and showed such pro ficiency in his philosophical studies that the de Ph. B (Bachelor of Philosophy) was conferred on him two years later. He was ordained June 7 1907. Following this he taught almost continuously at St John's University in the Department of Science, except for the time he spent at the Uni versity of Chicago to obtain his Master of Science degree in Chemistry. For over ten years he was Rector of St John's Seminary, and also for a time director of St. John's College. It must have entailed no small sacrifice for Abbot Alcuin to relinquish such a valuable man

On March 7, 1927 the feast of St Thomas Aquinas, Abbot Severin gave an interesting lecture



Abbot Severin with his brothers and sisters, 1927
Brothers: Brothers Father Alban died as a deacon, 1923

to the students of the College on astronomy, and continued the same topic March 21 St Benedict's day. That morning he had a solemn High Mass and the students chapel. During the last three days of Holy Week he conducted the solemn services at St Peter's Church On Easter Sunda Prior Peter celebrated the solemn High Mass there and read the documents from Rome confirmin the election of the Abbot Ordinary Abbot Severin was present at the service and preached in German It was his first sermon in St Peter's Church

Solemn and beautiful ceremonies marked blessing of the new Abbot. May 4. 1927 the east of the Solemnity of St. Joseph The function was conducted by Bishop Joseph Prud'homme of Prince Albert and Saskatoon, assisted by two Benedictine Abbots. Rt Rev Alcuin Deutsch of St, John Abbey Collegeville. Minn. and the Rt Rev Justus Wirth. of St Bede's Abbey. Peru, Illinois. A large [illegible] of the clergy sisters, students of St Pe [illegible] parishioners from the surrounding [illegible] and friends from distant parts joined in the procession from the College to St Peter's Church. The long procession, led by one of the pioneers, Brother Alexius, halted about midway to the church. at the cross road before Muenst where it was joined by a large delegation from Humboldt Before the actual benediction and in stallation. the official documents were read by the Rt Rev Alcuin Deutsch and the Ver Rev P Peter, V G Then followed the profession of faith and the required oaths by Abbot Severin. the Bish op's allocution. the prostration during the chant ing of the penitential psalms, the singing of the litany of All Saints the symbolic offering of bread wine and candles, the investiture with crosier. ring and mitre, the imposition of hands, the first solemn blessing of the people by the new prelate. the kis sing of the ring as a symbol of loyalty by his priests At the Pontifical High Mass which followed, Fa thers Innocent and Norbert brothers of Abbot Severin, assisted as deacon and subdeacon of Mass. Prior Peter was assistant priest, Fathers Fridolin and Casimir were deacons of honor Arch bishop Matthieu preached the English sermon and Bishop Joseph Busch of St Cloud, Minn., the German sermon Pontifical Harbonass was conclud ed with the joyfull singing of the "Te Deum augmented by the Lake Lenore Band

An outstanding feature of the occasion was the attendance of Mrs Margaretha Gerbert, Abbot [illegible] on brothers and three of his sisters from St Benedict's Convent, St Joseph, Minn. Other visitors included Fathers Bernard Ueberberg, O.M.I. of Regina, Wm Brueck O.M.I., of Prince Albert August Kuerdorf O.M.I. of Winnipeg, J F Mc Caffrey O.M.I of Saskatoon. Peter Bieler. O.M.I of Leipzig, Paul Hilland, O.M.I. of Regina, Wm Klinkhamer East Grand Forks. Minn.. Elias Le mire, Cloquet. Minn J. A. Murray. Secretary of Archbishop Matthieu; E. Dubois, Rosetown; J. S Sawed. Kutol

After the services a banquet was served in the n hall by the ladies of the Muenster parish at ich addresses were given by the Hon. Dr J M Ubrich. M L A. the Hon. A F Totzke M P Archbishop Matthieu, Bishop Busch and Abbot Severin. The singing of the "Laudes Hincmari," and [illegible] and Anthem brought the happy occasion to close In the evening the students of St Peter's College presented the play "Garcia Moreno the College auditorium

Soon after his blessing Abbot Severin arranged a extensive program for the exercise of his du ties as head of the Abbatia Nullius. On May 22 927 he visited St Elizabeth's Convent and Hos pital at Humboldt, and during Mass in the chape he invested Miss Mary Eva Strom as Sister Lu [illegible]a. On May 29 he visited the parish at Oud worth, preached in German and English at the High Mass celebrated by Father Casimir and in the afternoon blessed the new hospital. On the feast of Pentecost June 5 he celebrated his firs Pontifical High Mass. in St Peter's Church, and [illegible]ered the sacrament of Confirmation on 58 hildren. He blessed the new church of St George at Naicam on June 15 On June 12, he had blessed the bell of the Church of the Immaculate Con ception, south of Carmel. About this time Father Abbot visited Mount Carmel, the highest spot in St Peter's Colony, and expressed the wish that a large statue of Our Lady of Mt Carmel be erected there Several people immediately donated for that purpose. and by the middle of June donations amounted to $275. June 26, Father Ab bot visited Lake Lenore, confirmed 50 children nd preached at the High Mass sung by the pastor

Father Rudolph. Abbot Severin visited the parish at Cudworth a second time, July 3 for confirmation, and on July 10 he confirmed 115 persons at Bruno. On July 12 he received the solemn vows of Frater Xavier in the chapel at St. Peter's Abbey and on July 17 celebrated a Pontifical High Mass on Mt. Carmel at which time the offerings for the [illegible] had increased to $1,243.52.

Father Abbot made the following appointments toward the middle of July 1927. Father Leo for ten years pastor of Bruno, to St. Peter's Church, Muenster. Father Bernard, since 1924 pastor of St. Benedict, to Bruno. Father Aurelius, since September 1924 pastor of St. Peter's Church, to St. Benedict with St. Leo's Church as a mission. Father Leonard, pastor of St. Scholastica's Church, south of Humboldt. On July 21, 1927 Father Abbot administered the sacrament of Confirmation to [illegible] children at St. Gregor. On August 10 he invested three young ladies with the religious habit in the Ursuline Convent chapel, Bruno: Clothilda Wasserman, Muenster, as Sister Loyola, Sophia Berthold, Carmel, as Sister Rita. Anna Kloster, Grosswerder as Sister Elizabeth. At the same occasion he received the vows of Sisters Aquvila Druk, Ambrosia Nenzel and Bernarda Mueller. Three days later, August 14 he confirmed 163 persons in St. John's Church, Willmont parishioners of St. John's Church and St. Joseph's parish, Fuld.

On August 21 Father Abbot attended the Katholikentag at Bruno and preached the festive [illegible]. Next Sunday, August 28, he confirmed 65 children in the Sacred Heart parish, Watson and on September 4, 27 candidates at Dana. On the same day Fratres Sylvester Luke, Aloysius [illegible] Xavier were ordained subdeacons at Muenster by Bishop Vincent Wehrle, O.S.B. Bismarck North Dakota, after he had preached the Father's annual retreat the preceding week. On September 6 the Abbot blessed the chapel of the Ursuline Sisters at Humboldt where three Sisters took over the teaching duties in the Separate School. On September 11 Abbot Severin confirmed 24 children of St. Oswald's Mission south of Watson. The following Sunday conducted the canonical visitation at Leofrid, and on September 25 and October 2 at Pilger and Marysburg. These canonical visitations are prescribed by the Church from time to [illegible] knowledge of the spiritual and temporal conditions of his diocese. The other parishes of the Abbey Nul[illegible] were visited by the Abbot during the spring and summer of 1928.

The foregoing brief sketch indicates that the life of an Abbot Ordinary is not a sinecure, but a life of activity coupled with responsibility towards God, towards the Church and towards the souls [illegible] care. St. Benedict in his Rule reminds the Abbot "Let him know that he who undertakes the government of souls must prepare himself to give an account for them; and whatever [illegible] of brethren he hath under his charge, let him k[illegible] that on judgement day he will without doubt have to give an account to the Lord for all these souls in addition to that of his o[illegible]

His Excellency Msgr. Andrea Cassulo, Apostolic Delegate for Canada and Newfoundland visited the Abbey from October 29 to November 1927. He was accompanied by Msgr. J. Bearzotti, his secretary and Msgr. J. J. Blatz. Father Abbot met them at Totzke and accompanied them to Humboldt where a large crowd met them at the station. During the course of his stay he attended receptions in Muenster, Humboldt and Bruno. On July 9. and 10. 1935. Archbishop Cassulo visited the Abbey, and gave a very fine recommendation to the two Catholic weeklies. St. Peter's Bote, and The Prairie Messenger. Archbishop Cas[illegible]

Most Reverend Ildebrando Antoniutti, T[illegible] Archbishop of Synnada, visited the Abbey briefl[illegible] the summer of 1939 and again in the fall of 19[illegible]. Like his predecessor he was kindness itself[illegible] his meetings with the Ordinary and community.

On April 18, 1928, Abbot Severin presided at the election of the Superior of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth at Humboldt. Sister Seraphina was elected to succeed Sister Walburga whose term had ex[illegible]

On May 27 Fathers Sylvester Luke, Aloysius and Xavier were ordained deacons by Bishop Prudhomme in St. Paul's Church Saskatoon. On May 25 Father Abbot attended the silver jubilee of the priesthood of Father Innocent, his brother at St. John's Abbey and on June 3 he conducted the canonical visitation at Annaheim and conferred the sacrament of confirmation on a large number of children. On June 10 he attended the silver jubilee celebration at St. Boniface's Church, Leofeld, and confirmed the children. He was present the next day also for the silver jubilee of their

pastor Father Fridolin. On the feast of St. Norbert June 6, Norbert Schwinghammer of Bruno, was received into the novitiate, keeping his baptismal name. He left the same day for St. John's Abbey to prepare for the priesthood there. About the same time Fathers Cosmas and Wilfrid were sent to the University of Minnesota to pursue higher studies.

It was strenuous and exacting work that Abbot Severin was called upon to perform during the first year he was head of St. Peter's Abbey Nullius. With joy and gladness Abbot Severin and the entire St. Peter's Colony were able to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the territory June 27, 28, and 29, 1928.

The first day, children's day, began with Pontifical High Mass by Abbot Severin in St. Peter's Church with Prior Peter as assistant priest, Fathers Matthew and Luke as deacon and subdeacon, Fathers Fridolin and Casimir as deacons of honor. Father Meinrad Seifermann, O.S.B., the founder of the first parish, Leofeld, preached in German and Father Bernard preached in English. About a thousand children, assembled from the various parishes, sang the Missa de Angelis. During the course of the afternoon, the Hon. J. T. Gardiner, premier of Saskatchewan, now federal minister of agriculture, delivered a speech.

The second day was dedicated to the memory of all deceased pioneers. The Abbot celebrated a Pontifical Requiem High Mass at which Subprior Joseph was assistant priest, Fathers Meinrad and Sylvester deacon and subdeacon. Fathers Hilland O.M.I. and Theo. Schweers, O.M.I., deacons of honor. In his sermon Father Lawrence made special mention of Abbot Bruno, Abbot Peter Engel and Bishop Pascal whom God had already called to their reward. The afternoon was devoted for the most part, to the Volksverein. Father August Kiesdorf, the secretary of the immigration department of the Verein, announced that during the past four years more than 12,000 German Catholic immigrants were aided and placed among Catholic surroundings, while Mr. W. F. Hargarten of Bruno, secretary of the teachers bureau of the Verein, stated that through his services more than a hundred schools were supplied with Catholic teachers. The students of St. Peter's College staged "The Crusader's Legacy" in the college auditorium in the evening. The evening of the first day they had presented "The Blind Prince."

The third day of the jubilee, the feast of St. Peter and Paul, the patronal feast of St. Peter's Abbey, St. Peter's Colony and St. Peter's Church was very important and impressive. Bishop Prud'homme of Prince Albert celebrated the Pontifical High Mass, at which Fathers Sylvester Seifermann, Luke Bockmann, Alexius Herriges and Xavier Benning, were elevated to the priesthood. Since the church was not large enough, the services were conducted in the portico of the church. Prior Peter was assistant priest, Fathers P. Bieler, O.M.I., Francis, O.S.B., deacon and subdeacon. Fathers Chauvin, and A. Laconte deacons of honor. Bishop Prud'homme preached the festive sermon and paid glowing tribute to the Order of St. Benedict in general, and the work accomplished by the members of that order in St. Peter's Colony in particular. He called this jubilee day a day of joy and a day of glory.

Present at the celebration, besides those already mentioned above and all the Fathers of St. Peter's Abbey, were: Very Rev. Father Bernard Ueberberg, O.M.I., Provincial of the German Oblates in Canada, Fathers Wm. Brunck, O.M.I., William Brabender, O.M.I., John Schwebius, O.M.I., Peter Bieler, O.M.I., Conrad Maier, O.M.I., Minnegen, O.M.I., Francis Palm, O.M.I., W. B. Grant, O.M.I., M. J. O'Leary, Drahomiretzki, a Ruthenian priest, and an immense concourse of people from the entire Colony and from distant points outside the district. Congratulatory telegrams were received from His Excellency, the Most Rev. Andrew Cassolo, Canada's Apostolic Delegate, a great number of Bishops, Benedictine Abbots and scores of others including the Hon. Charles Dunning, Canada's Minister of Railways.

Bands from St. Benedict and Bruno, fireworks in the evening and other forms of entertainment helped to make the jubilee celebration a memorable one. A highlight of the festival was the [illegible] by Mr. A. F. Teake, member of the Parliament for Humboldt and the parade, in which nearly all the parishes took part with floats and banners. Foam and Wilhoont had miniature replicas of their churches as floats. Leofeld a float representing three theological virtues, Faith, Hope and Charity. Watson a scene depicting the life of a missionary of 903 to 1904.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament with

...iop Prud'homme officiating, assisted by Fathers Mathias and John as deacon and subdeacon, and the joyous singing of the Te Deum closed the Silver Jubilee. To complete the joy of this celebration, His Holiness, Pope Pius XI sent to Abbot Severin a beautiful, large photograph of himself and the privilege of bestowing the Apostolic blessing on the members of the Abbey and colony. The Holy Father also granted the concession of inserting the name of the Abbot Ordinary in the Canon of the Mass.

[illegible]

Abbot Severin was ordained priest on June 7 1907 and when he had completed twenty five years in the sacred ministry his monks would not permit the anniversary to pass without a fitting celebration. He consented to their plans and chose June 29. 1932, the patronal feast of the Abbey and the Colony as the date for the jubilee. On that day Bishop Prud'homme ordained Fathers Gregory Augustine and Alphonse during his Mass at 7 o'clock in St. Peter's Cathedral. At 9:00 o'clock the Abbot celebrated a Pontifical High Mass of thanksgiving. Prior Peter was assistant priest, Fathers Wilfrid and Paul deacon and subdeacon, and Fathers Hilary Doerfler, O.S.B., (a brother of Abbot Bruno) and Joseph Steiger of Earling, Iowa ...e deacons of honor. Archbishop James McGuigan of Regina, now Cardinal Archbishop of Toronto, preached the English sermon and Bishop Prud'homme the German sermon.

Spiritual bouquets from the parishes and ...sions were presented to the Abbot Jubilarian while little Magdalene Bergerman presented a beautiful silver wreath in the name of the Muenster parish. At the banquet in the College Archbishop McGuigan and Bishop Prud'homme spoke and Abbot Severin responded. In the evening the the orchestra presented a concert in the College auditorium. Also present at the jubilee were Msgr. Janssen, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Regina, Very Rev. Thomas Schnerrh, O.M.I., Provincial of the German Oblates, Dr. J. M. Ulrich and many others.

Blessing of Abbot Severin, May 4, 1907. Left, Bishop Prud'homme; right, Abbot Severin; background, [illegible]; Gonzalez, Abbot Martin, Abbot Peter.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Mount Carmel

The Blessed Mother of God, is no stranger to the Benedictine Fathers and the faithful of St. Peter's Colony. Mount Carmel named after the famous Mt. Carmel in Northern Samaria, where the prophet Elias had his abode, had been named before the arrival of the Benedictines to Saskatchewan. It is the highest spot in the district rising 1987 feet above sea level, 95' feet higher than Carmel Station, three and one half miles to the south. Naturally the pioneers were very much interested to learn how this hill received its name and when a crude cross had been erected on its summit. Father Chrysostom wrote to Mr. David Venne, a buffalo hunter, living in the northwestern section of St. Peter's Colony, in 1911 about it. Mr. Venne's reply only stated that the mount was formerly known by the name of "Big Butte," or big hill.

In 1921 Father Chrysostom wrote to the Geographic Board of Canada, and under date of August 8 received the following reply from Mr. R. Douglas, secretary of the Board: "I am in receipt of your letter of 1st instant enquiring about the name of Mt. Carmel, section 16, township 38, range 24, west of the 2nd meridian. The trail through the township was surveyed in 1886 by Lestock Reid, who calls the hill Mt. Carmel, or the Hill of the Cross. This is the earliest reference to Mt. Carmel on record. I fancy a former name to be hill was 'Big Butte' though I have not found

This is the same as Butler's Spathanaw Watchi both names meaning 'high hill.' The Board's copy of Butler's book has a picture of the hill.

William Butler in his book "The Wild North Land" published in 1873, describes Mt. Carmel as follows: "The hill of the Wol the lonely Spathanaw Watchi have witnessed many a deed of Indian daring and Indian perfidy. Alone in a vast waste the Spathanaw Watchi lifts his head; thickets and lakes are at its base a lonely grave at its top, around four hundred miles of horizon: a view so vast that endless space seems to to find embodiment, and at a single glance the eye is satisfied with immensity. There is no mountain range to come up across the sky-line over to lay its glistening folds along the middle distance, no dark forest to give shade to foreground or to fringe perspective, no speck of life, no track of men, nothing but the wilderness. Reduced to its nakedness, space stands forth with almost terrible grandeur." What a fascinating description Mt. Carmel! Though perhaps somewhat exaggerated, it is a real gem. What description would Butler give of Mt. Carmel now, since towns and villages, churches, parishes and farm homes have sprung up all around the "hill" in the "vast waste"? A person with good eyes standing on Mt. Carmel and looking to the north, east, south and west day may see. St. John's Church at Willmont, St. Bernard's Church, Filyer, St. Joseph's Church, Fulda, Assumption Church Marysburg, St. Anthony's Church, Lake Lenore, (with binoculars) St. Augustine's Church, Humboldt, St. Peter's Church, Muenster, St. Peter's College, Muenster, Our Lady's Church, Carmel, Immaculate Conception Church south of Carmel and the Ruthenian Church to the west. All these churches and parishes were erected in the last fifty years. What a beautiful spot for a place of pilgrimage! Our Blessed Lady is as it were, standing in the midst of the Colony, watching over her children, and from the top of the mount symbolized by her statue dispensing her favors!

Whether there was a grave on the top of the mount or not is a disputed question. No trace of a grave could be detected when the summit was leveled and the foundation for the pedestal of the statue of Our Lady was dug in 1928. More likely a cross was on the top of the hill before the year 1886, since Lestock Reid in that year called it the Hill of the Cross." On September 10, 1928, Isidor Dumas, 76 years of age at the time, stated that about fifty years ago, probably in the year 1892, a Scottish Irish Catholic girl was ordered by her parents to marry a non-Catholic man. The home of the girl was Fish Creek and her name was Hatty (Henrietta?) MacKay. In order to escape the marriage she fled from home and escaped into the wilderness. Either inadvertantly or otherwise she took poison and died. Mr. Dumas stated that he made the coffin for the dead girl and with the help of Alexander Ahlen buried the girl in the

northeast of Mount Carmel, but close by. Four or five years later the skull showed above ground, a sign that the grave must have been shallow and rather exposed to wild animals. The cross which had been placed on top of the mount and fashioned out of popular wood had crumbled and fallen to the ground when Mr. F. J. Lange came there in 1902 in his exploration trip through the proposed Colony. He replaced it with a new cross fashioned from the same material.

The first Benedictine to set foot on the Mount was Father Conrad Glatzmeier, O.S.B. then the pastor of Albany, Minn., and vitally interested in the founding of the Colony. That was on September 22, 1902. He was accompanied by Mathias Betsch of Millerville, Minn., and Carl Hoedl, Albany, Minn. Father Bruno and his first visit to Mt. Carmel on September 23, 1902, accompanied by H. J. Haskamp and John Hoeschen. It was the wish of Abbot Bruno, as well as of the Fathers and pioneer settlers, that Mt. Carmel should eventually become a place of pilgrimage. However, there were so many pressing problems to be met in those days that this wish could not be carried out until later.

On July 22, 1921, Father Chrysostom, Leo Woell and Edward M. Brunsing of Muenster went to Mt. Carmel to interview Mr. John Bunko on whose homestead the Mount was located. Their intention was to purchase the mount or ask Mr. Bunko to donate it as a place of pilgrimage. Mr. Bunko received the delegation kindly and obligingly donated enough land for the proposed chapel and sold 11 more acres, as parking space for the autos of the pilgrims. Later it was necessary to buy five acres for further parking space.

Now that the mount was purchased it was time to execute the wish of Abbot Bruno. Meanwhile he had died, but his successor, Abbot Michael carried out his wish. A temporary primitive chapel had been built on top of the mount during the summer of 1922, and an altar placed within. On September 10 Abbot Michael surrounded by almost all the priests of the colony and thousands of the faithful, solemnly blessed the Mount while the men's choir from Muenster, supported by Mr. Pitzel and Mr. Schaeffer of Humboldt sang the "Magnificat" and other Hymns in honor of the Blessed Virgin. Father Ignatius played a portable

After the dedication Abbot Michael celebrated Pontifical High Mass, assisted by Prior Peter as assistant priest, Fathers Subprior Joseph Sittenauer and Dominic as deacon and subdeacon, Fathers Th. Schmidt and Fridolin as deacons of honor. Abbot Michael delivered an inspiring sermon in English, and in German, after which he dedicated the entire territory of the Abbey Nullius to the Blessed Virgin. He announced that henceforth the pilgrimage would be an annual event to be held on the Sunday following the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Well over 3,500 people attended this first pilgrimage to Mt. Carmel.

The pilgrimage on July 22, 1923, was attended by more than a thousand. Abbot Michael again celebrated Pontifical High Mass and his assistants were the same as the previous year with the exception that the deacons of honor were Father Peter Neusendorfer, O.S.B., a visitor from St. John's Abbey, and Father Chrysostom. Father Meinrad who again visited the Colony, preached the sermon. Father Matthew, pastor of Carmel, said Mass early in the morning and distributed Holy Communion, this being the first time that Holy Communion was distributed on the Mount. Because the chapel was on top of the Mount, the people could not see the altar very well, so it was moved to the slope, on the western side of the Mount. A client of the Blessed Virgin from the parish of Carmel pledged to donate the sum of $500 for a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel to crown the hill.

The third pilgrimage to Mt. Carmel took place on July 20, 1924. In the absence of the Abbot Ordinary who was conducting a retreat for the Benedictine Sisters at St. Benedict's Convent, St. Joseph, Minn., Prior Peter celebrated a solemn High Mass at which Father Lawrence preached. Miss Agnes Nenzel of Muenster was organist and for the third time in succession the men's choir of Muenster sang. The fourth pilgrimage took place on July 19, 1925. Because of heavy rains and muddy roads only about 500 pilgrims were present. Abbot Michael celebrated a pontifical Mass and preached.

July 18, 1926 was the date of the fifth pilgrimage. It was a beautiful day in contrast to the preceding year and Holy Masses were said from early in the morning until 10:30, when Father Stephen

who had been ordained that year said his first Solemn High Mass in the Colony and Father Lawrence preached. At the solemn procession around the mount in the afternoon the newly ordained priest carried the Blessed Sacrament while the pilgrims prayed the Rosary and sang h The choir of the Holy Guardian Angels' Church Engelfeld under the direction of Mr John Schw hammer sang during the

The sixth pilgrimage to our Lady of Mt Carmel took place on July 17, 1927 and this was the first time Abbot Severin held pontifical services on the Mount. Since it had rained heavily the roads were almost impassible, and it was only with great difficulty that the two autos which conveyed Abbot Severin and his assistants arrived on the Mount. Many cars were stuck in the mud on the way to the hill, but about 800 pilgrims managed to attend the services. The Abbot was assisted b Prior Peter as assistant priest, Fathers Leo and Leonard as deacons of honor and Fathers Stephen and Alovsius as deacon and subdeacon, and Prior Peter preached. The Muenster choir was

Contributions toward a statue of Our Lady of Mt Carmel had come in gradually and at this time amounted to $1,250. The statue eight feet high, carved from Carara marble by an Italian artist was ordered on July 30, 1927 at a cost of $ 000 It arrived at Carmel on February 10, 1928 Mr Antonio Molaro of Saskatoon, an expert stone mason and architect, constructed the foundation and pedestal for the statue so that it could be erected on June 12, 1928, just a few weeks before St Peter's Colony celebrated its silver jubilee. All parishes of the Colony contributed generously to the statue and also for the construction of a stone chapel, to replace the rickety wooden one like for the fourteen stations of the Cross which were also built under the direction of Mr Molaro The statue of Our Lady of Mt Carmel was solemnly blessed on July 22, 1928, at the beginning of the afternoon services by Abbot Severin who had celebrated a pontifical Mass that morning. Present at these services were about 800 pilgrims. One of the Masses celebrated that morning was in the Greek rite by Father Drahomiretzki. He also preached a short sermon in the Ruthenian lan

At the eighteenth pilgrimage on Mt Carmel, July 21, 1929 July 20, 1930, Abbot Severin again conducted pontifical services. The attendance in 1929 exceeded 5000 and in 1930, 4000. Father George Scheffold, O.S.B. of St John's Abbey, who a number of years before had preached missions almost all parishes of the Colony, delivered the sermon on both occasions. On account of the diverse weather prevailing the procession with the Blessed Sacrament had to be omitted in 1929 Short sermons were preached by Fathers Wilfrid and Francis at the low Masses in 1930 A loud speaker was used for the first time at this pilgrimage and was of great assistance to the preachers Father John delivered a short sermon, after the recitation of the Rosary in 1930, during the afternoon services. As usual the pilgrimage ended with the singing of the Te Deum and the blessing of

Special significance was added to the tenth pilgrimage on July 19, 1931 when Abbot Lambert Burton O.S.B., of St Martin's Abbey, Olym Wash., son of the deceased John W Burton of Humboldt, celebrated his silver jubilee of priesthood on the Mount He was assisted by Prior Peter Fathers Dominic Casimir Benedict and Rudolph. Twenty five years before Abbot Lambert then a monk at St Benedict's Abbey, Atchison Kansas, had offered his first Solemn High Mass at Marysburg, to which parish his parents belonged at the time. On August 28, 1928, he was elected Abbot At the jubilee service on Mt. Carmel, Father Dominic, who had preached at Abbot Lambert's first Mass, again delivered the sermon Dur ing the afternoon of the pilgrimage, after a mon by Father Bernard, the singing of the "Veni Creator" and the "Stabat Mater" the stations of the cross were erected by Prior Peter It was an impressive sight as fourteen young men carried the wooden crosses to be erected during the procession around the Mount. At the procession which followed, Abbot Lambert carried the Blessed Sacrament The brass band of Bruno, attended the pilgrimage and helped greatly to make this a festive occasion The veneration of the relics of the Canadian Martyrs and the "Te Deum" closed the pil

The eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth pilgrim

uly 17 1932, July 16, 1933, and July 22 1934, were very much like the preceding. Father Abbot Severin celebrated Pontifical High Mass in the morning. In the afternoon the pilgrims circled the Mount, praying the way of the cross, and again the procession with the Blessed Sacrament About 3000 to 5000 attended. Sermons were preached in English, German and Polish. Father Joseph Kreuter, O.S.B., preached the main sermons in German and English in 1932, Father Marcellus in 1933, and Father Rembert Bulanik O.S.B., in 1934. Fathers Rembert and Joseph were members of St John's Abbey conducting retreats Colony those years. Father Joseph Steiger of Earling Iowa also preached an impressive sermon 932.

Because Father Abbot was attending the General Chapter of the American Cassinese Congregation of Benedictines in 1935, there was no Pontifical Mass that year but Father Norbert Schwinghammer O.S.B., who had been ordained the previous June, celebrated a solemn High Mass with Fathers Aloysius and Alphonse as deacon and subdeacon. Father Wilfrid preached at the morning service and Fathers Lawrence and Augustine in the afternoon. On that day about 2000 Communions were distributed

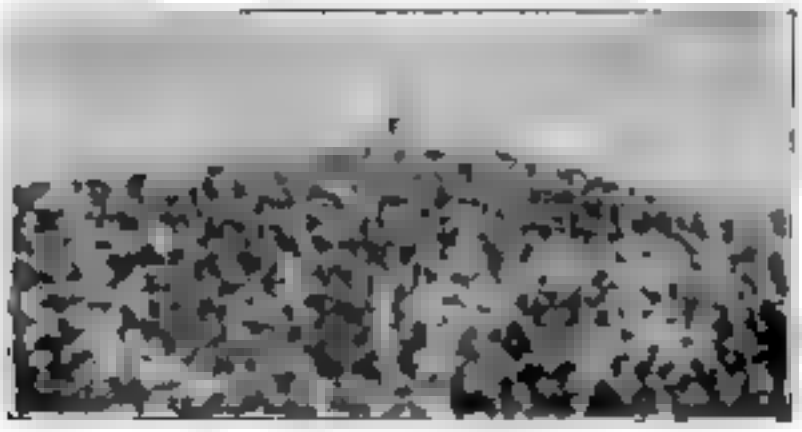
At the pilgrimage of July 19, 1936 and July 18 937 the same procedure of the preceding pilgrimage was followed Father Abbot sang a Pontifical High Mass and Prior Peter delivered the sermon in 1936, while Father Andrew Kohlbeck, O.S.B., a monk of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota preached in 193?

The seventeenth annual pilgrimage, July 17 938, was a special occasion. For a number of months Mr Antonio Molaro and a group of stone masons from Saskatoon, assisted by local men, had constructed a chapel and altar of limestones picked at the Mount and hewn into proper shape It was solemnly blessed on the pilgrimage day. The stones, carefully chosen for shape and color make it both beautiful. The east side of the chapel is open that the thousands of pilgrims can conveniently attend the service from any position from the chapel to the statue. As in previous years, Father Abbot celebrated the Pontifical High Mass, and Prior Peter preached in German and Father Elmer Rissenschenk, O S.B., a monk of St John's Abbey, in English. The latter expressed great surprise at the beauty of the shrine and had words of praise for the pilgrims, more than 5000, who had to pay their homage to God and their loyalty to the Mother of God. Father Abbot in his sermon that afternoon expressed the same sentiments, and had words of special praise for Mr. Molaro, Father Stephen and the members of the Carmel parish who had aided in the erection of the beautiful chapel This chapel now stands as a monument of filial love and devotion to God and his Blessed

Another pleasant surprise was in store for the faithful who attended the next pilgrimage, July 6, 1939 Fourteen stations of the cross each a massive cairn of local limestones in which was embedded a bronze plaque depicting the scene relief had been built by Mr Molaro and his men in the late summer and fall of 938. Assist Father Abbot celebrated Pontifical High Mass at which Father Jerome Gassner O.S.B. a monk of the Abbey of Seitenstetten, Austria, delivered the German sermon. Father Gregory preached in the after after the canonical exertion of the stations of the cross by Father Abbot The beautiful statue on the summit the picturesque chapel on its slope and the impressive stations of the cross, are works of art and proof of the generosity of the inhabitants of St Peter's Colony and of their love for the Mother of Christ

When Abbot Severin celebrated his silver jubilee of the priesthood on June 29, 1932, the parishes and missions of the Colony presented a gift of $1000. which sum he used solely for the developement of Mt. Carmel. On several occasions the collection taken up on the day of pilgrimage amounted to about $500 Father Abbot and his Fathers did not accept a cent for their labors on the mount. In spite of this, after all the bills were a debt of $2000 had been incurred in 1939 by the construction of the chapel and stations. This has subsequently been paid. Now 1957) there is a credit balance in the Mount Carmel Pilgrimage Fund of about $6000 Lightning struck the pedestal of of the statue on July 9, 1937. and again 1950, but did not damage the statue itself. In 1937 the damage was slight and easily repaired, but it was considerable in 1950. Lightning arresters were erected 195i by Mr. Molaro to guard against future

The celebrant of the Pontifical Mass at the



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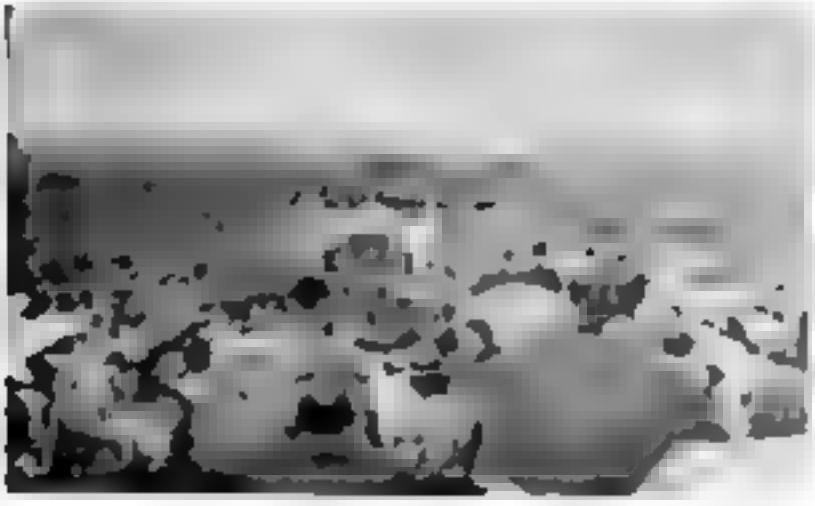

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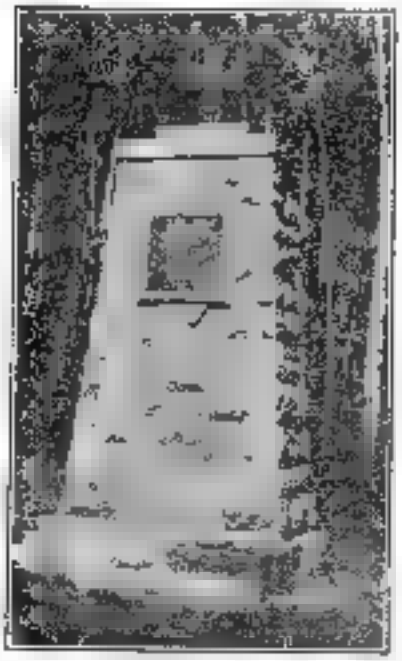


One of the Stations of the cross encircling the hill.

twentieth pilgrimage, July 21, 1940, was Bishop Joseph Guy, O.M.I., of Gravelbourg. Father Bernard delivered the sermon, and Abbot Severin attended in the sanctuary. The choir from St. Boniface Church, Loofeld sang in 1939 and 1940.

The pilgrimages from 1940 to 1952 followed the accustomed schedule and need not be described in more detail. The number of pilgrims grew each year. Of special interest was the gigantic Family Rosary Crusade rally on the Mount September 26, 1948. More than 10,000 pilgrims gathered about the statue of Our Lady on the hallowed hill, and before her chapel on its slope to honor her and to ask her blessing in fulfilling the request she made at Fatima in 1907. Never before had Mt. Carmel seen so many distinguished ecclesiastics as on this day. The weather for this season of the year was perfect. As Prior Peter remarked in his sermon it almost reminded the pilgrims of the miracle of the sun witnessed by 70,000 in Fatima, Portugal October 7, 1917. Archbishop O'Neill of Regina celebrated the Pontifical High Mass, and the following ordinaries of Saskatchewan assisted; Bishop Joseph Lemieux, O.P., of Gravelbourg, Bishop Philip F. Pocock of Saskatoon, Rt. Rev. Severin Gerken, O.S.B., Abbot Ordinary of St. Peter's Abbey Nullius, Father Patrick Peyton, the director of the Family Rosary Crusade, delivered an inspiring sermon. In the afternoon the bishops and Father Abbot addressed the pilgrims, and the customary processions with the Blessed Sacrament, and the way of the cross took place.

† Later Deaths †

When Abbot Severin was elected head of St Peter's Abbey there were only four graves in the Abbey cemetery, those of Abbot Bruno, Father John, Father Boniface and Brother Rhabanus. A fifth was added when the remains of Prior Oswald Moosmueller were transferred from the deserted Clunv Priory in Illinois to Saskatchewan. Now there are twenty graves in the little cemetery The deaths of Father John Balfrey, Abbot Bruno, Brothers Rhabanus, Edmund and Augustus and Novice Joseph Kelly have been recorded in preceding pages

Fr. Boniface Puth, O. S. B.

The first priest to die in the new abbey building was Father Boniface Puth. Born in Cobern, Germany, Nov 1, 1864, he was over 40 years old when he was ordained by Bishop Bonomelli in Cremona Italy, June 17 1905 Shortly after his ordination he came to the United States and worked for a time in the Diocese of St Cloud, Minnesota Feeling called to the Benedictine Order, came to Muenster where he was invested by Prior Alfred as a novice and a year later made his vows June 24, 1908. As a religious he led an exemplary life and served as a model for his younger confreres From 1909 to 1913 he attended the missions at Carmel, Dead Moose Lake and Pilger from 1913 to 1916 he was chaplain for the Sisters of St Elizabeth and the hospital at Humboldt He was recalled to the Abbey in 1916, and, though suffering from poor health, made himself useful at various occupations while edifying all by his regularity and good example. Two years before his death he underwent an operation which apparently did not bring him much relief He suffered with patience and frequently said that he was prepared to meet his Maker Death came to him unexpectedly during the night of January 28-29 1924; he was found dead on the floor of his room After a solemn Pontifical Requiem, January 31, by Abbot Michael, he was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery

Fr. Matthias Steger, O. S. B.

Seven years after the passing of Father Boniface, Father Matthias Steger died Father Matthias was born December 31, 1874 at Almanshofen, Bavaria, and after his primary education in his home, he took up his higher studies at the Benedictine school in Augsburg He came to America and joined the little Benedictine Priory of Cluny in Illinois, where he pronounced his vows on April 27 1894. Prior Oswald Moosmueller sent him to St Vincent Archabbey in Pennsylvania to complete his philosophical and theological studies. There he was

ordained priest on May 26, 1899, by Bishop Rod and Phelen of Pittsburg, and celebrated his first Solemn High Mass, one of the assistants being Frater Peter. After he returned to Cluny Father Matthias was Prior Oswald's right hand man until the latter's death January 10, 1901. When Father Alfred Mayer was appointed successor to Prior Oswald and the community moved to Saskatchewan Father Matthias remained at Cluny as administrator of the property. As soon as he had settled the affairs there he too started out for Saskatchewan. His journey was held up for a time because the [illegible] had swept away the wooden railway bridge at Saskatoon but he finally arrived in April 1904. Prior Alfred appointed him subprior of the monastery, which post he held until the fall of the same year. In October 1907 he was appointed pastor of St. Boniface Church at Leofeld. Here he labored successfully for sixteen years until April 1923 when he was appointed pastor of Marysburg. Here also he worked successfully and edified his congregation by his piety, conscientiousness and zeal for the house of God. During the last few years of his life he suffered considerably because cancer of the stomach had gradually developed without his knowledge. In company with Prior Peter he went to Macklin, Sask., where he was operated in St. Joseph's Hospital, but a few days later on June 2 1931, he passed away. The body was brought to Muenster and after Pontifical Requiem High Mass was interred in the Abbey cemetery.

Five years later the angel of death called Father Leo Ojdowski. He was born September 8, 87[illegible] at Heinrichsfeld, German-Poland, and [illegible]grated to the United States with his parents. They settled at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where as a young man he worked in the Carnegie foundry. He earned good wages and saved enough to furnish a comfortable home for his parents. Having done this filial work, he followed a long cherished wish to become a Benedictine and went to Cluny Priory where he began his studies. In the summer of 1900 [illegible] received into the novitiate by Prior Oswald and a later, July 21 1901 was admitted to vows. Two years later, in the fall of 1903, he and Brother Rhaban came to Canada. During the early days, while still continuing his studies for the priesthood, he made many trips to Rosthern with teams

Fr. Leo Ojdowski, O. S. B.

and wagon. Bishop Pascal ordained him April 29 1906 in the log church at Muenster, and he celebrated his first solemn High Mass in his home parish at Pittsburg. On his return he replaced Father Meinrad at Leofeld, when the latter took a well deserved trip to his homeland. When Father Meinrad was appointed pastor of Watson, Father Leo remained pastor of Leofeld, but his stay was not long, for on October 13, 1907 he became pastor of St. Benedict with the mission of St. Leo. In March of 1909 he was recalled to Muenster to become the manager of the Abbey farm. On Sundays he frequently had the parish High Mass or attended the mission at St. Gregor. In May 1917 he became pastor of St. Bruno's Church and labored successfully there the next ten years and [illegible] July 1927 Abbot Severin appointed him pastor of Muenster, and here on May17 1931, he celebrated his silver jubilee of priesthood. At this time he was almost sixty years old, at his own request was given the smaller parish of Engelfeld in August 1931. On Pentecost Sunday 1935, he became seriously ill. He was relieved of his pastoral charge and sent to St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, but when [illegible] cure could be expected, he was taken to St. Michael's Hospital, Cudworth, where under the kind

care of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth and his sister Helen he awaited the end. He died on July 31 936, the feast of the Solemnity of St Benedict, the day on which he had made his religious profession thirty five years before Abbot Severin had visited him frequently during his months of suffering. At the funeral July 20, 1936 Abbot Severin sang the Pontifical Requiem, assisted by Prior Peter and Fathers Casimir and Fridolin. He was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery

In 1939 the Abbey lost two more of its members by death, Father Fridolin Tembreull on June 27 and Father Sylvester Seifermann, November 4

Fr. Fridolin Tembreull, O. S. B.

Father Fridolin was born on February 17, 1876 at Piers, Minn. As a youth of 21 he entered the Order of St Benedict at St John's Abbey and pronounced his vows on August 15, 1898. On June 11, 1903 he was ordained by Bishop Trobec of St Cloud As apothecary at the Abbey he acquired considerable knowledge of medicine and he was for a time the infirmarian for the Abbey and the students of St John's University. Though he appeared to be robust he was not a very healthy man having had [illegible] in his youth. He joined St Peter's Abbey in 1919 and was given charge of Sacred Heart Parish Watson, by Abbot Michael On October 25, 1921 he became Prior and procurator, but the heavy debt proved too big a burden and in November 1922 he was transferred to Assumption Parish, Dead Moose Lake, and Father Casimir took his place. In March 1923 Father Fridolin was transferred to St Boniface parish, Leofield, which he administered successfully, until his final illness. A short stay in the hospitals at Cudworth and Saskatoon brought no relief, so, accompanied by Father Abbot he went to the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minn. An exploratory operation disclosed cancer of the pancreas which had spread to other organs. He died June 27, 1939 at St. Cloud, Minn. The body was brought to Muenster and after a Pontifical Requiem was interred in the Abbey cemetery

Fr. Sylvester Seifermann, O. S. B.

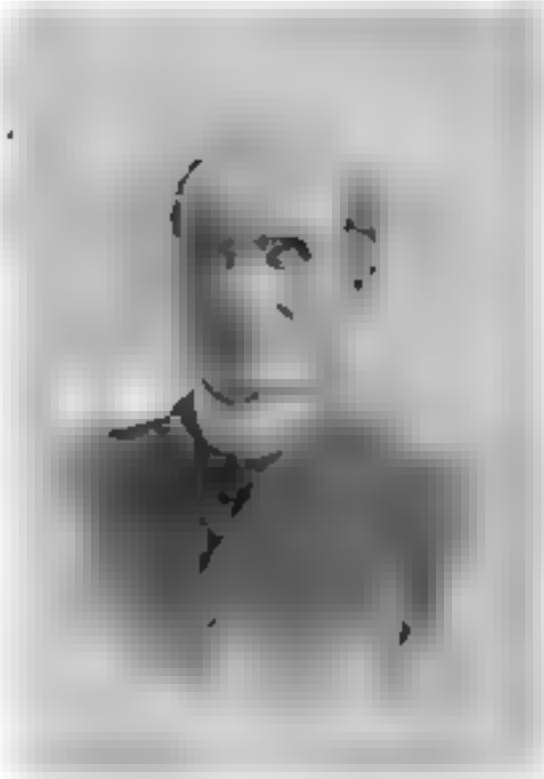
Father Sylvester Seifermann was born on April 5, 1900 at Springhill, Minn., and received the name John in baptism. After completing his elementary education in his home town he went to St John's College, with the intention of becoming a Benedictine priest like his uncle, Father Meinrad. He came to Saskatchewan in the summer of 1921, and entered the novitiate in 1922, receiving the religious name Sylvester. A year later made his [illegible] July 12. He was ordained at Muenster, June 29, 1928, by Bishop Prud'homme and celebrated his first solemn High Mass in Springhill, Minn. He returned to Muenster in the fall to teach in

the College, but a week later, had to discontinue because of a hemorrhage. The next eleven years were very difficult ones for him. Examination in Saskatoon disclosed that he was suffering from tuberculosis and the doctors recommended treatment in the sanitorium. After seven years treatment there he improved sufficiently to be able to say Mass occasionally. He underwent a number of operations, parts of his ribs were removed and one of his lungs was collapsed. His patience and cheerfulness edified the staff and patients alike. Finally his obligations allowed him to be transferred to St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Humboldt, which gave Father Sylvester much joy, since he was now closer to his confreres. Here he remained for four years. At times he felt well enough to be taken for short drives through the country by the Fathers from

leaving him weak, and the last Sacraments were administered to him several times. On November 3, 1939, after an especially severe attack Father Dominic again administered the last rites and on November 4 he peacefully passed away. His death occurred on the day Brother Aloysius was buried. Father Abbot sang a Pontifical Requiem as his body was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery.

The following year Father Casimir Czmowski died July 17. He was born in Kamin, West Prussia, Germany, September 11, 1876, and early in life came to Gilman, Minnesota, with his parents. At the age of fifteen he went to St. John's and years later entered the novitiate. He pronounced his vows July 28, 1901. With the permission of Abbot Peter Engel he joined St. Peter's Priory July 1903. In the pioneer days he made many wagon trips to Rosthern with Fathers Leo and Rudolph. He was an ardent hunter and many a prairie chicken and duck fell before his gun to be eaten at the next camping spot on those long trips. Bishop Pascal liked to go hunting with Frater Casimir. Father Casimir and Father Leo were joined by Bishop Pascal in the log church at Muenster, April 29, 1906. On June 14, the feast of Corpus Christi, he celebrated his first solemn High Mass in the beautiful grove to the northwest of the Monastery building. His parents had taken up a homestead in the district in 1905 and he had the happiness of attending the service. He was often [illegible] at various stations, was a good master of ceremonies, a good singer and cornet player and was able to preach English, German and Polish. He was sent to Toronto to

learn the mechanics of the linotype machine and for some time was typesetter in the printing office. Toward the beginning of 1913 he attended the missions of Dead Moose Lake and Pilot [illegible] a month, and in 1914 became the first resident pastor at Dead Moose Lake. During his stay here the Sisters' residence and rectory were erected, and after the destruction of the frame church by the tornado of 1919 the present imposing brick church was built. In 1922 he was appointed Prior, but did not return this post long being appointed pastor of St. Michael's Church Cudworth in September 1924. Here he labored to the end of his life. On July 12, 1940 shortly after midnight he suffered a heart attack, but managed to drive to the hospital. During the day he seemed to improve but later in the evening suffered an [illegible] of the neighboring parish of Leofeld, was called but by the time he arrived Father Casimir had passed away. His body was taken to Muenster and after Pontifical Requiem services by Abbot Severin, was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery.



Fr. Rudolph Palm, O. S. B.

Father Rudolph Palm, another pioneer, was called two years after the death of Father Casimir. He was born at Knopp, Rhens-Bavaria, German April. 23, 1877 and came to the United States at [illegible]. He made his preliminary studies for the priesthood at the Benedictine Abbey of St Bernard, Cullman, Alabama and later at the Cluny Priory, Wetaug, Ill., where he was received [illegible] his profession as a Benedictine on October 1 899. In 901 Prior Alfred Maver sent him St John's Abbey to complete his studies and here he was ordained deacon in May 1903. Father Rudolph was filled with enthusiasm when he heard of the proposition made by St John's Abbey to the Cluny Priory. He was anxious to go to Saskatchewan, and was happy to be among the first members of the Priory to go to Canada. Undoubtedly he other member of the pioneer band of Benedictines

[illegible] pe one very cold evening, he walked up and down the room before a fire without uttering a word. His confreres plied him with questions to which he gave no reply until he picked the icicles from his beard; his mouth had been frozen shut. On June 29, 1904 he was ordained by Bishop Trober of St Cloud, Minn. and then went to Germany for his first Solemn High Mass in his home parish, While there he became ill and was not able to return Saskatchewan until 1905. Prior Alfred appointed him farm manager, and on Sundays he frequently held services at Humboldt, becoming resident pastor in 1906. In 1915, he was transferred to St Benedict where he had the church decorated and a pipe organ installed. In 1924 he became pastor of Lake Lenore where he remained until his death. In 1942 his old stomach trouble returned and he went to Saskatoon for treatment. Following an operation he recovered partially and returned to Lake Lenore, but after a relapse entered St Elizabeth's Hospital where he died on August 25, 1942. His body was laid to rest in the Abbey Cemetery after the Pontifical Requiem by Abbot Severin. The evening before his funeral a damaging hail storm passed through the district, and just as the cortege reached the cemetery a heavy thunder shower poured down a deluge of rain. Interment was postponed half an hour and the grave had to be pumped out before burial. Father Rudolph weathered many a storm in his life and it seemed almost fitting that the elements participated at his funeral.

The next deaths were those of two men known as Father Joseph. Father Joseph Sittenauer died September 11, 1946, and Father Joseph Wickel on April 25, 1947.

Father Joseph Sittenauer was born in Walters kirchen, Bavaria, Germany, September 24, 1863 receiving the name of Michael in Baptism. He made his elementary studies with the Benedictines at Scheyern and at Freising and Munich in Bavaria. In 1883 he emigrated to the United States and entered St Vincent Archabbey Pennsylvania where he pronounced his first vows on November 29, 1884, before Abbot Boniface Wimmer, the founder of the first Benedictine Monastery in North America. A daughter house of St Vincent St Benedict Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, was in need of help and Frater Joseph volunteered his services

Rev. Fr. Joseph [illegible] O. S. B.

Abbot Boniface permitted him to join the Atchison community in 1885. He was ordained June 22, 1889 and two years later was [illegible] College of the Benedictine Order at Rome. After three years of study at [illegible] his degree of Doctor of Theology, and remained in Rome one more year specializing in Philosophy. After his return to Atchison, he was professor of Sacred Theology for the next fifteen years, director of the scholasticate and later Prior of the Abbey. For ten years he was pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church at Seneca, Kansas. In 1922 he [illegible] gmatic Theology for many years. Abbot Michael [illegible]

ember 30, 1922 to January 1934 he edited the St Peter's Bote. He observed his golden jubilee of is profession on November 28, 1934, and of his priesthood on June 29, 1939. A slight stroke in 945 curtailed his activities, but he recovered so fficiently to be able to say Holy Mass almost to the end of his life. He died at the age of 83 at St Elizabeth's Hospital, September 11 1946, and was buried in St. Peter's Abbey cemetery Septe 4 following Solemn Requiem services conducted by Prior Peter, in the absence of Abbot Severin.

Father Joseph Wickel was born at Siegen Westphalia, Germany May 6, 1877 receiving the [illegible] Robert in baptism. As a young man he emi grated to Canada and was received as a novice by Prior Alfred November 30, 1905. As Frater Joseph he pronounced his vows January 15, 1907 and [illegible] d to the priesthood by Bishop Pascal Sep nber 17 9 1 at St Peter's Church, Muenste He offered his first Solemn Mass in Sacred Heart Church, Watson, October 1, 1914, the feast of the Holy Rosary. He was appointed assistant to Father Bernard at Watson and both attended the missions of Englefeld, St Oswald, St Gregor

Fr. Joseph Wickel, O. S. B.

When the new church at Englefeld was completed in 1912, Father Joseph was given charge of the parish becoming first resident pastor next year. After a visit to Germany in 1922, he was appointed pastor of St Anne's Church, Annaheim, which he [illegible] dministered until his death. Probably no other [illegible]

the suffering of the poor especially the poor children of Germany after both World Wars, being inspired to such deeds of mercy by their revered pastor. On September 13, 1936 he had the happiness to celebrate the silver jubilee of his priesthood. The eleven years of Father Joseph's life after his silver jubilee were full of suffering. Two years before, in 1934, he felt the first signs of sickness. Visits to several physicians in Saskatoon, Humboldt and Rochester brought only temporary relief. But he kept on praying and working, assisted on Sundays and holy days by a priest from the Abbey. On Maundav Thursday and Easter Sun day 1947 he conducted the services, but in his weakened condition, contracted a severe cold and had to be taken to St Elizabeth's Hospital on April 14. There, despite the best of care, he passed

[illegible] peacefully on April 25. Father Joseph was well prepared for death. A month before, on the occasion of his namesday, he wrote to a confrere. The patron of the little ones, St. Joseph, and [illegible] He must help safely across into eternity." He loved the children and was filled with joy on the occasion of his last namesday, when the children of his parish presented him with a rich spiritual bouquet. Since his parishioners wished to have a last look at their beloved Pastor, the body was taken to Annaheim then to Muenster, where, on April 28 after a [illegible] Pontifical Requiem by Abbot Severin in St. Peter's Church his body was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery.

[illegible]

The next priest to di[illegible] — Rader. He was born at St. Leo, Minn., September 30, 1893, and baptized Peter. After completing his classical course at St. John's University he joined St. John's Abbey making his vows July 11, 1919. On May 5, 1920 he volunteered to go to Canada. He was ordained June 3, 1923, by Bishop Busch of St. Cloud, Minn., at St. John's Abbey and sang his first solemn High Mass at St. Leo, Minn. Shortly after his return to Saskatchewan he was appointed chaplain of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Humboldt and the following year he became temporary pastor at Muenster. In 1927 he was transferred to St. Benedict's Parish and St. Leo's Mission near Cudworth. After the townsite of St. Benedict had been laid out on the new C.N.R. Humboldt to Prince Albert line, he organized the mission of St. Andrew and served it from St. Benedict. A severe blow struck him and St. Benedict's Parish on April 24, 1943, Holy Saturday, when the church was completely destroyed by fire of unknown origin. Without delay the pastor and parish began to construct a new basement church which was completed that summer. While Father Aurelius was hearing confessions in this basement church on March 24, 1948 the day before Maundy Thursday, he became seriously ill. In spite of almost impossible roads due to deep snow and bitter cold he was conveyed to St. Michael's Hospital, Cudworth, where the doctor diagnosed double pneumonia complicated by an enlarged heart. Death relieved him of his sufferings on April 6. Father Abbot flew to Cudworth by plane to visit him, since the deep snow prevented train service. He was assisted during his illness by Fathers Edward and Lawrence who were both stationed in Cudworth at the time. One of his sisters, Sister Edna, O.S.B., of St. Benedict's Convent, St. Joseph, Minn., was present at his death and funeral. The body was taken to Muenster by plane, for the Pontifical Requiem Services by Abbot Severin and burial in the Abbey cemetery, April 10, 1948.

Death took two members of the Abbey in 1950, Fathers Dominic Hofmann on January 27 and the venerable nonagenarian Father [illegible] Steinkogler on June 30.

Gustav Hofmann was born at Gerolfeld, Bavaria, February 14, 1874. He came to St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., in 1889 at the request of Abbot Alexius Edelbrock, O.S.B., who recruited young men from Europe for the wide field of labor in America. The young man entered the novitiate in 1892 receiving the name Dominic. He made his profession July 11, 1893, and was ordained to the priesthood June 21, 1897. The following year he was assigned as assistant priest to the Assumption Parish of St. Paul, Minn. He accompanied Prior Alfred to Canada in January, 1903, when the two

penetrated into the Colony as far as Dead Moose lake where they almost froze to death. He came again on July 22 1903, to join St Peter's Priory on a temporary basis, but was so urgently [illegible] in the new field that permission to stay was extended and in 1920 he transferred his vows permanently to St. Peter's Abbey. His first charge in Saskatchewan was the parish of St Ann, Annaheim where he offered the first Holy Mass on the feast of St. Ann, July 26, 1903 in the home of Adam Specht. One of Father Dominic's brothers Father Martin Hofmann, O.S.B., joined the [illegible] of Mount Angel in Oregon, and celebrated his first Solemn High Mass in Annaheim July 2, 1911. In 1918, after 15 years at Annaheim, Father [illegible] construction of a basement church there. Before he could carry out his plans he was transferred to St. Augustine's Parish, Humboldt in 1920, where he celebrated his silver sacerdotal jubilee August 8, 1920.

Father Dominic had the appearance of a robust man, though he actually was much troubled by illness. On July 23 1943 he had the happiness of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of his profession as a Benedictine among his confreres after the annual retreat. His ailments increased during the last years of his life to such an extent that a Father from the Abbey had to assist him regularly every Sunday and holyday in the parish work. His eyesight also began to fail. In January 1947 he fell down the steps leading to the basement of the church, injuring himself so severely that the janitor Mr. Blanch, had to carry him back to the house. He never fully recovered from the fall. Abbot Severin obtained the privilege of saying Holy Mass in the house for him, but often he was unable to avail himself of it. When he celebrated the golden jubilee of his priesthood on June 29, 1947 he received assistance to the altar erected in the open on the west side of the separate school. The devotion shown the aged pastor by his parish on this occassion filled him with joy. About 1600 persons attended his last solemn High Mass, his last public function. After this golden jubilee celebration Father Dominic's strength declined rapidly and he was confined to bed most of the time. The end came on the morning of January 27 1950, within a month of his 76th birthday. He was fully conscious to the end, and was able to receive Holy Viaticum at the hands of Father Aloysius fifteen minutes before he died. A solemn Requiem Mass was offered in St. Augustine's Church on January 30 by Father Aloysius. The business places in the town of Humboldt were closed. From Humboldt the body was taken to Muenster, where after pontifical services in St. Peter's Church conducted by Abbot Severin, interment was made in the Abbey [illegible]

Father Lawrence Steinkogler was born at Ebensee, Austria, June 1 1858, and baptized John. At 18 he came to the United States and began his higher studies at St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, where he was invested with the Benedictine habit and received the name Lawrence. On May 3, 1882 he was professed and on December 19, 1885, was ordained a priest by Bishop Rupert Seidenbusch O.S.B., the Vicar Apostolic of Northern Minnesota. After many years in pastoral work at Melrose, Thief River Falls, Georgetown, West Union and other places in Minnesota, he volunteered for Canada in 1912, where he took over the parish of Fulda and the mission of Willmont replacing Father Hilpehouse Molitor, O.S.B., who returned to Minnesota on account of poor health. In 1913 he superintended the building of a beautiful church at Willmont and merited the praise from Abbot

Fr. Lawrence Steinkopf, O.S.B.

Peter Engel. "Happy the priest who builds a church and does not incur debts." On May 3, 1932 he celebrated his golden jubilee of profession. On that day he celebrated Mass in his parish, then motored to Muenster where at a Pontifical Mass celebrated by Abbot Severin he renewed his vows. In 1935 he celebrated his golden jubilee of the priesthood in company with Mr. Alfred Duerr of Fulda he went by auto to Mayhew Lake, Minn. where on September 10, he celebrated a solemn High Mass at which Abbot Aicum preached. On the 6th, the feast of the Holy Rosary, he observed his golden jubilee in the parish of Fulda, and on the 13th at St. John's Church, both of which he had served for the preceding twenty three years. At this time Father Lawrence was seventy-seven years of age still hale and hearty, but soon after old age began to make itself felt, and in 1937 he was given assistance in the person of Father Luke Bockmann O.S.B. and later, Father Constantine Thelen, O.S.B. In August 1940 Father Lawrence, now 83 years old, resigned, and became chaplain of St Michael's Hospital, Cashworth. This was an ideal spot for the kind old man who had always shown kindness and consideration to the sick. Here he celebrated his diamond jubilee of the priesthood. September 16, 1945. He was led in procession into the church and said a low Mass, at which Abbot Severin preached and congratulated Father Lawrence, who had been privileged to offer up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass so many times in the past 60 years. The good Lord granted him five more years after his jubilee, but feebleness confined him to his bed for much of the time. He received excellent care from the hospital staff and Miss Mary Rachel who had been his housekeeper for thirty years. Father Edward attended him regularly and was present when the end came on June 30, 1950, at the age of ninety two years and one month. His body was brought to Muenster. After a Pontifical Requiem by Father Abbot it was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery July 3, 1950.

Distinguished Guests

Among the distinguished visitors to St. Peter's Abbey-Nullius were two Apostolic Delegates to Canada and his successor, Archbishop Ildebrando Antoniutti, in 1927, 1935, 1939, and in 1951, as has been mentioned already.

Other noted prelates included His Eminence Rodrigue Cardinal Villeneuve, O. M. I., formerly Bishop of Gravelbourg, Sask., in January 1932, after he had been appointed Archbishop of Quebec, and His Eminence James Charles, Cardinal McGuigan former Archbishop of Regina and later of Toronto; Archbishop of Sherbrooke, Archbishop Philip Peter J. Monahan of Regina; Bishop Gerald Murray of Saskatoon, later Archbishop of Winnipeg, Bishop Joseph Prud'homme of Prince Albert, Bishop Joseph Guy of Gravelbourg, Archbishop Michael C. O'Neill of Regina, Archbishop Arthur Beliveau of St. Boniface, Man., Archbishop Georges Cabana, Coadjutor Archbishop of St. Boniface and now Archbishop of Sherbrooke, Archbishop Philip Pocock of Winnipeg, Bishop Maurice Baudoux of St. Paul, Alta., now Coadjutor Archbishop of St. Boniface, Bishop Joseph Lemieux, O.P., of Gravelbourg, Bishop Reginald Duprat, O.P., of Prince Albert, Bishop Francis P. Carroll of Calgary, Bishop Ovide Charlebois of Le Pas, Manitoba, Bishop John T. MacNally, first bishop of the diocese of Calgary, Bishop Budka, Bishop Roborecki, Bishop Klein, Bishop Joseph Busch of St. Cloud, Bishop Pascal C. M. I. of Prince Albert, was not mentioned because he was so intimately connected with the founding of the Colony, and such a frequent visitor he seemed almost a member of the monastic [illegible].

The Right Rev. Hildebrand de Hemptinne, O. S.B., appointed by Pope Leo XIII as first Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Order, visited Muenster October 17 to 19, 1910. He died August 13, 1913 and his successor, Abbot Fidelis de Stotzingen visited St. Peter's Abbey in 1926. After his death the Right Rev. Bernard Kaelin, Abbot of Mont-Gross, Switzerland, was elected [illegible] and visited the Colony in the fall of 1949.

About twenty other Abbots visited St. Peter's Abbey. The first of these were Abbot Peter Engel of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota and Abbot Innocent Wolf, Abbot of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas. They arrived on November 16, 1906 to conduct the canonical visitation. Abbot Aurum Deutsch, Abbot Peter's successor at St. John's Abbey, was a frequent visitor. Abbot Ernest Hefenstetter of St. Mary's Abbey, New [illegible] New Jersey, as President of the American Cassinese Congregation visited St. Peter's several times and presided at the election of Abbot Michael and Abbot Severin. When Abbot Michael was blessed October 28, 1919 the assistant Abbots were Abbot Oswald Baron, St. Martin's Abbey, Olympia, Washington, and Abbot Bernard Menges of St. Bernard's Abbey, St. Bernard, Alabama. In May 1929 Archabbot Aurelius Stehle of St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, accompanied Abbot Ernest to conduct the visitation. Abbot Justus Wirth of St. Bede's Abbey, Peru, Illinois, was one of Abbot Severin's assistants at his Abbatial Blessing, May 4, 1927. Abbot Vincent Huber, Abbot Justus predecessor at St. Bede's Abbey, visited St. Peter's twice, in 1917 as retreat master and again as Visitator in 1923. On this last visit he celebrated a Pontifical High Mass in St. Peter's Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday, May 20. As official Visitators of the American Cassinese Congregation a number of other Abbots visited St. Peter's, including Abbot Martin Veth of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, and Abbot Charles Mohr of St. Leo's Abbey, Florida, Abbot Mark Braun of St. Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee, Oklahoma, Abbot Vincent Taylor, Abbot Ordinary of Marythelp Abbey-Nullius of Belmont, North Carolina, Abbot Cuthbert Gorb of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota, Abbot Lawrence Voha of St. Bede's Abbey, Peru, Illinois, and Abbot Cuthbert McDonald, of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas.

Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Kpodzo, O.S.B., Abbot Primate of Benedictine Order

Rt. Rev. A. Pascal, O. M. I.

Abbot Adolph Burnett, O.S.B.

Abbot Lambert Burton of St. Martin's Abbey, Olympia, Washington. Abbot Ignatius Conrad of the Abbey of Subjaco, Spiffeville, Arkansas. Abbot Thomas Aquinas Meier of Mt. Angel Abbey, Oregon.

After the Second World War Father Peter Klotz O.S.B., a member of St. Peter's Abbey, Salzburg, Austria, visited the Colony and collected over $4000 for the sufferers in Austria at the request of Cardinal Piffl of Vienna. In 1922 he was chosen Abbot of his monastery, but resigned in 1931. Father Baldwin Dworschak conducted the annual retreat in 1945, and was elected Abbot of St. John's on December 28, 1950.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, accompanied by the Hon. Walter Scott, Premier of Saskatchewan and Dr. D. B. Neely, Member of Parliament for Humboldt paid St. Peter's Priory a short visit on July 25, 1910.

St. Peter's Abbey and its members have always been on the best of terms with the other religious orders and congregations laboring in the Canadian West. Franciscan Fathers have held retreats for the monks and the communities of Sisters in the Colony, and have preached missions in a number of the parishes. Abbot Bruno gave valuable counsel to the Oblate Fathers when they founded St. Joseph's Colony. The Oblate Fathers Lanfer and Kowalski gave retreats to the monks of the priory in the early days and Fathers Hilland and Brabender preached missions in Annaheim and Lake Lenore in 1908. Oblates and Benedictines worked together in the Volksverein, and the names of Fathers Fuetsch, Kierdorf, Hilland, Schwebius, Schweers, Mauwegen, Handzik, Bueler, Hoenung, Meier, Schultz, Schaller, Bockenfoehr, Steuer, Ueberberg, Hermandung, and others will long be remembered. Redemptorist Fathers from Saskatoon and Edmonton have conducted the retreats for the students of St. Peter's College for many years. They have also preached missions in many of the parishes. Father Blank of the Society of Jesus delivered an outstanding sermon at the Katholikentag at Bruno, July 1922. The Basilian Fathers conducting St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan often visit the Abbey. The secular clergy of all the dioceses of Saskatchewan, like the religious communities, have ever shown a friendly spirit to St. Peter's Abbey and its members.

Cardinal James Charles McGuigan, retired Archbishop of Regina, and Cardinal Archbishop of Toronto, Ont.

Bishop Vincent Wehrle, O.S.B. First Abbot of North Dakota, first Bishop of Bismarck, N.D.

Bishop Harold C. Murray, C.S.S. First Bishop of Saskatoon, later Archbishop of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Bishop Philip F. Pocock, second Bishop of Saskatoon, present Archbishop of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Bishop Francis J. Klein, present Bishop of Saskatoon.

Archbishop Peter Joseph Hamilton, Third Archbishop of Regina

Bishop Joseph Gay, D.D., third Bishop of Connellsburg

Bishop M. Joseph Lennon, C.P., fourth Bishop of Greensburg

[illegible]

Cardinal Villeneuve, O. M. I., and Father Wm. Grouch, O.M.I. at Orphanage, Prince Albert

Bishop Joseph Henri Prud'homme, second Bishop of Prince Albert and Saskatoon.

Bishop L. J. Arthur Melanson, second Bishop of Gravelbourg, later Archbishop of Moncton, N.B.

Bishop Reginald Dupuis, O.P., third Bishop of Prince Albert.

The most Rev. Leo Haid, D.D., Bishop of Nueva Segovia

Archbishop Michael Cornelius O'Neill, present Archbishop of Regina

The Most Rev. [illegible], D.D., Bishop of [illegible]

Archbishop Hendrick Gerdsen, Coadjutor Archbishop of St. Boniface, first Saskatchewan Priest consecrated Bishop, former parishioner and pastor of Prud'homme, Sask., and Bishop of St. Paul, Alberta.

Aid from the U. S. Abbeys

From the very beginning Divine Providence came to the aid of the small Benedictine [illegible] in a special way. So much assistance came from the members of St John's Abbey that they can be [illegible] saluted co-founders of the community. Fa[illegible] Bruno Doetfler, a monk of St. John's Abbey, select[illegible] the territory for the Colony [illegible] the fall of 1902. Another monk of St John's, Fa[illegible]ther Alfred Mayer was appointed by Pope Leo XIII to head the Cluny Priory and it was he who led the small community to Saskatchewan. Still another member of St John's, Father Meinrad Selferman, joined the first group bound for Canada [illegible] founded the first parish of the Colony [illegible] Casimir Cismowski, Dominic Hofmann, Ildephonse Molitor came from St John's in the early [illegible] When Father Ildephonse returned to Minnesota [illegible]se of illness, St John's Abbey replaced him [illegible] Father Lawrence Steinkoeter in 1913. Father [illegible] Tell replaced Father Dominic during the latter's illness, and superintended the erection of the frame church at Annaheim. Father Fridolin Fembreull was permitted to join St Peter's Abbey in 1919, at the time that another monk from St John's Abbey, Father Michael Ott was elected second Abbot of St Peter's. Fr Matthew Michel a cleric from St John's, arrived at Muenster [illegible]uly 1917 while Fr Marcellus Meyer arrived from there in September 1919. Neither was ordained at [illegible] time but had completed a large part of their studies at St John's. Seven other young men who had completed their clerical course at St John's [illegible]niversity came to Canada. Fathers C[illegible] Krumpelmann, Paul Kuehne, John Hable, Francis Lohmer, Leonard Benning, Stephen Molhorko and Luke Boeckmann. Another monk of St John's Father Andrew Straub superintended the build[illegible]ng of the College in 1920 and 1921. Another monk of the same Abbey Father Bruno Schmidt [illegible] charge of St Boniface's Parish, Leofrid from Fridolin.

The following monks of St John's Abbey conducted annual retreats for the Fathers at Mue[illegible]

Virgil Michel, Rembert Bulatzik, Basil Steigmann, Coelestine Kapsner, Method Portwoll, Pascal Bo[illegible] Roger Schoenbaechler, Odo Zimmermann, Alex[illegible]er Korte and Elmer Eisenschenk. Fathers Cos[illegible] Dahlheimer, Burkhard Armbruster and Athana[illegible] Fuchs were loaned as professors and prefects. Other Fathers from St. John's Abbey showed their [illegible] interest in the Colony and the Abbey by paying visits, including Fathers Ludger Ehrens, Vincent Schiffler, Gregory Steil, Clement Dimfl, Maurus Ferdinand, Charles Cannon, Ansgar Osendorf, Otto Weissner, Raymond Basel, Innocent Gerlach, Norbert Gerlach, Antony Rouelleofitsch [illegible] at Neustaendorfer, Hilary Doerfler, David Yuenger, Hyacinth Cismowski, Constantine Thelen, and Walter Reger. Fathers Conrad Glatzmeier and Prior Herman Bergman inspected the Colony selected in 1902. Prior Herman visited it twice [illegible]

[illegible]ber of St. John's Abbey at the time of his elec[illegible]on visited the Colony twice. St. John's Abbey certainly showed tremendous interest in St Peter's Abbey during the past fifty years, and God alone can repay it for all the aid given.

Other Abbeys also contributed to the welfare of St Peter's Abbey. St Anselm's Abbey at Man[illegible] New Hampshire, though only a [illegible] Priory at the time, permitted Father Chrysostom Ho[illegible] to join St Peter's Abbey in 1903. Father Chrysostom had completed his theological studies but had not yet been ordained. Bishop Trobec ordained him on July 1, 1903 and he arrived at the little monastery in Saskatchewan on August 2, 1903. During the course of the fifty years he has probably done more pioneer missionary work [illegible] other Father. St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe Pennsylvania, aided by sending Fathers Ignatius

Groll, William Hein and Peter Fischer. From St. Bede's Abbey, Peru, Illinois, came Father Richard Gregoire, who did pastoral work in the Colony and in Meacham, Saskatoon and Prince Albert between the years 1927 and 1929. Father Andrew Kuhlbeck of St. Mary's Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota, conducted the Fathers annual retreat in 1937, preached the German sermons at the pilgrimage on Mt. Carmel, and conducted the retreat for the Ursuline Sisters at Bruno. Father Otho Sullivan of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, and Father Gabriel Germann of St. Bernard's Abbey, St. Bernard, Alabama, assisted St. Peter's Abbey from 1939 to 1941 and 1949 to 1951 respectively. Father Jerome Gassner, a member of the Abbey of Seitenstetten, Austria, conducted two annual retreats for the Fathers of St. Peter's Abbey in 1939 and 1940, and a retreat for the housekeepers of the parishes. Father Gallus Sherman, another Benedictine from Austria, (Innsbruck) did pastoral work for over three years after the death of Father Casimir. From 1942 to 1946 St. Peter's Abbey gave shelter to Brother Norbert Hasenmueller O.S.B., a monk of the Abbey of St. Felizitas at Muenster-schwarzach, Bavaria, Germany. This Brother had been stationed at one of the Abbey's foundations in England, and at the outbreak of the Second World War was interned as an enemy alien. He was sent to a concentration camp in Eastern Canada from which he was released to St. Peter's Abbey through the mediation of Abbot Severin. Brother Norbert was very useful in the printing office of St. Peter's Press. In 1946 he was permitted to go to Newton, New Jersey, where the Benedictine Missionaries of the St. Ottilien Congregation had founded a new monastery. From 1926 to 1928 Brother John Peter of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota, lent his assistance to St. Peter's Abbey.

I love thy plains, Saskatchewan,
Thy valleys and thy hills;
Forever thy beauty lures me on,
My heart thy freedom thrills.

I love thy sky, Saskatchewan,
All solemn in the night
Thy rosy banner flung at dawn,
And floods of daytime light.

I love thy sons, Saskatchewan,
Those men to thee so true
Courageous men of will and brawn,
Deep-souled as thy sky is blue

—Jules Meinz

New Laborers for the Harvest

Almighty God can bestow no greater
hood or to the religious state and not a
ted by God. In 1911 the Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth began their foundation with three Sisters and by 1953 their number has increased to hundred. The Ursuline Sisters at Bruno began with three Sisters in 1914 and they number close to one hundred.

When Abbot Severin was elected third Abbot of St. Peter's Abbey in 1927 there were only Fathers whose parents were settlers in St. Peter's Colony. These were Father Theodore Doepker of Annaheim and Father Wilfrid Herrott of Bruno. Four other young men had already joined the monastery, but were not yet ordained. These Fr. Aloysius Herriges, Engelfeld, Fr. Gregory Gas Humboldt, Fr. Augustine Nenzel, Muenster and Fr. Alphonse Ludwig, Bruno. Father Aloysius ordained June 29, 1928, and the other June 29, 1932. Nine other young men of St. Colony have become Benedictine priests since 1927. Fathers Norbert Schwinghammer, Bruno, ordained 10, 1935, William Gehlen, Lake Lenore, June 6, 1937, Philip Loehr, Muenster, May 30, 1942, Jerome Weber, Muenster, June 8, 1941, Alfred Engele, Carmel, June 4, 1944, Florian Reuneberg Leofeld, June 4, 1944, Roman Schneider, St. Benedict, June 15, 1947, Leo Hinz, Muenster, June 3, 1950, and Leander Dosch, Annaheim, June 3, 1950. Father Edward Benning, a brother of Fathers Leonard and Xavier came from Artadia, Wisc., and made his classical studies at St. Peter's College. He was ordained June 3, 1936. Father George Brodner, his brother Father Martin Brodner were born at Dysart, Saskatchewan, and completed their classical course at St. Peter's College. Father George was ordained on May 30, 1942 and Father Martin on November 14, 1943. Father Albert Ruetz from Gull Lake, Sask., made his classical studies at St. Peter's College, and was ordained June 5, 1949. Father Vincent Morrison came from Regina, studied at St. Peter's College and was ordained December 20, 1952. Father James Grey from Muenster is at present at St. John's Abbey, and ordained deacon June 7, 1952. He, as well as all the Fathers beginning with Father Norbert made their philosophical and theological studies at St. John's Abbey. Four other young bers of St. Peter's Abbey are at St. John's preparing for the priesthood. They are Fr. Werner Rennebers from Leofeld, a brother of Father Florian, Fr. Daniel Gerwing and Fr. Amelin Gerwing, brothers from Lake Lenore, and Fr. Joseph Ackerman from

St. Peter's Parish

A brief history of St Boniface's Parish at Leofield has already been given in its place as the parish of the Colony to be organized. The [illegible] to be established was St Peter's at Muenster by Prior Alfred. On May 31, 1903 he [illegible] Mass on the S W ¼ Sec 18 T [illegible] Range 21 West of the 2nd Meridian (It was the [illegible] event, Mr Berthold Imhoff painted a beautiful picture of the Lord's Ascension on the ceiling of St Peter's Church in 1909

Until November 1921 St Peter's Abbey and St Peter's Parish were so closely connected that the history of the one is really the history of the other Though his responsibilities as superior of the small community often necessitated his absence from Muenster, Father Alfred was pastor of St Peter's Parish until Father Bruno was elected Prior - April 1906. Prior Bruno followed the example of his predecessor and remained in charge of the parish until 917 when he appointed Father Chrysostom subprior of the monastery and pastor of the parish. Father Leo who had been subprior before this was transferred to Bruno. Prior Bruno had become Abbot in August 1913 but retained the administration of the parish and took special interest in the parish school. He would ordinarily say Mass for the school children on week days and preach during the High Mass on Sundays. At a parish meeting, August 8, 1911, at which he presided, it was decided to build a new school The building was to have a full basement constructed of concrete and the walls were to be of [illegible] locking tile. There were to be two large class rooms on the first floor and enough room above [illegible] next day the parish [illegible] the purpose and the building completed in October 1917 During the winter of 1916 to 1917 classes were conducted in [illegible]

Under the pastorate of Father Chrysostom the entire church was decorated by Mr Berthold Imhoff. The sanctuary with its eighty life [illegible] figures was a personal gift of Mr Imhoff to Abbot [illegible]

Imhoff asked $3000. A collection taken for that purpose by Father Chrysostom amounted to $3600 The decorative work of Mr Imhoff is really unique and is considered among the finest in Canada. He succeeded in giving the picture of St Paul above the first pillar on the epistle side of the [illegible] the features of his friend Abbot Bruno The beautiful stations of the Cross were a generous gift of St John's Abbey to Abbot Bruno shortly before his death

In November 1921 the community of St Peter's Abbey moved from the old Abbey buildings [illegible] of Muenster to their new location south east of the town. Father Peter was appointed pastor of St Peter's Church and Vicar General of the Abbey Nullius and Father Frivolin became Prior Procurator. Father Peter and Mr August Wasser [illegible] constructed two confessionals in the back of the church, building them into the walls of the [illegible] In 1922 the old altar was replaced by [illegible] one costing $2200 and Holy Mass was celebrated [illegible] for the first time on April 2 The Munich Art Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which designed the altar donated a baptismal font of the same material and matching the altar in design The discarded altar had quite a history of its own originally in St Joseph's Church (Benedictine) Chicago, Illinois, and was donated to Cluny Priory, probably in 1892 [illegible] the high altar in the chapel. When the community moved to Saskatchewan the altar was included with their goods. The bell of the chapel at Mt. Carmel [illegible] has a historical background. The Ecker family [illegible] Isenbrandt brought it from Alberta and donated it to St. Peter's Church. Father Peter mounted it alongside the log church at Muenster in 1903 and it served to call the monks and parishioners to the services until a larger bell was purchased in the fall of 1910. The new bell was blessed by Prior Bruno on November 27, 1910, and hoisted to the belfry of the church next day As was previously

ctated, the present frame church was built by Au gust Wasserman and Theodore Fleskes, members of the parish, in 1909 and 1910. The solemn took place on July 10, 1910 and Bishop Pascal blessed it on October 2, 1910. On both Father Peter sang the solemn High Mass, F Bruno preaching on the first occasion, and Bishop Pascal on the second.

As pastor of St. Peter's Church, Father Peter was a busy man. He had the care of the parish, wa of the parochial school, and was both editor and manager of the St. Peter's Bote. His task was considerably lightened in November 1922 when the printing establishment was moved to the site of the new building and Father Subprior Joseph Sittenauer took over the editorship. This comparative ease did not last long, for he was re called to the Abbey in September 1924, and again appointed Prior by Abbot Michael.

Father Aurelius succeeded Father Peter as pas tor and was transferred to St. Benedict in July 1927, being succeeded by Father Leo Ojdowski who remained there until August 1931. During his administration Mr. Wasserman built the two side altars in the same style as the main altar, and they harmonize beautifully with the style and decora tion of the church. On May 24, 1931 the parish celebrated Father Leo's silver jubilee of the priest hood. Like most of the other major parishes of the Colony, the parish of Muenster considered the parochial school the most suitable educational in stitution for their children. Since a parochial school was supported only by voluntary contributions there were difficulties financing it, and during Father Leo's pastorate it was changed into a public school, the Ursuline Sisters remaining as teachers.

For the next sixteen years, August 1931 to July 1947, Father Marcellus was pastor. He did much to beautify the church grounds by planting a spruce grove around the church and designing a symmetrical approach. Electric lights were installed in church. In October 1939 he received St. Gre gory's Church, St. Gregor as a mission, and a Father from the College assisted him Sundays and Holydays. He celebrated his silver jubilee as priest Muenster on July 15, 1945 and in St. Gregor on August 5, 1945, Abbot Severin preaching both occasions. Because of impaired health Father Marcellus was transferred to Engelfeld in July 1947 Until his departure the former monastery served as rectory, the parish paying a nominal sum annually but in the course of the years it had deteriorated and so was razed in 1948. The pastor now resides at the College.

Father Gregory succeeded Father Marcellus and Father Alfred Engele became his assistant. In 951 Father Gregory installed a Wurlitzer Reed Electric Organ, at a cost of $3500. During 1948 nd 1949 the parish cemetery was landscaped and small marble combstone placed at the head of each grave. In 1951 the graves in the cemetery numbered 240. In 1952 a public address system was installed in the church.

The following Fathers celebrated their first solemn High Masses at Muenster during the course the past fifty years: Father John Balfrey, July 12, 1903, Father Casimir, June 14, 1906, Father Clovis Moller, a secular priest from the diocese of Prince Albert, April 5, 1910, Father Cosmas, Jan 9, 1924, Father Augustine, the first priest of Muenster parish, July 3, 1932, Father Jerome June 22, 1941, Father Philip, May 31, 1942, Fa ther Leo Hinz, June 4, 1950.

The following are a few statistics of the parish. The number of parishioners is about 700 In 95, over 16,000 Communions were distributed Five of its sons have joined the Order of St. Bene dict. Fathers Augustine, Philip, Jerome, Leo and James Gray. Another, Father Francis Lenz became an Oblate Father, and Father William Kroetsch whose parents resided at Muenster for a time and left in 1924, became a Redemptorist Father Gerald Biwer O.F.M. and Father Robert L. Maney, are also sons of St. Peter's Parish.

At least twenty young ladies of the parish joined various convents: Sister Maura Bergermann, O.S.B., Sister Alacoque Mayer, O.S.B., Sister De metria Nenzel, C.S.J., Sister Carmelita Nenzel C.S.J., Sister Mary Clare Nenzel, S.A., Sister Am brose Nenzel, O.S.U. Sister Cyprian Gemeinwie ser, C.S.J., Sister Basil Vogelsang, C.S.J., Sister Alexis Zietz, S.A., Sister Loyola Wassermann, O S J. Sister Augustina Koett O.S.U. Sister Thoma Bernhard, O.S.U. Sister Therese Muench, O.S.U. Sister Magdalen Weber O.S.U., Sister Juliana Weber, O.S.U., Sister Catherine Huenigen, O.S.B. Sister Gabriel Washkowski, O.S.B. Sister Herbert

Wingert. Sister Mary Louise Pape, O.S.U., and Sister Scholastica Twardack, O.S.F.

Father Petre administered the first baptism in the parish on July 12, 1903 to Maria Theresia Groppe, the daughter of Joseph Groppe, whose homestead was on Sec. 22 T 37 R. 21. The mother died on August 2 1903. The child was baptized in a tent upon which the sun beat so strongly that the heat within was almost unbearable. Mr. Frank Boehm was sponsor. The first marriage contracted was that of Anton Eimer, an employee of the Priory and Anna Leitz, September 21, 1903. in the log church. (Mr. Eimer later moved to British Columbia. For many years he supplied Regina with Christmas trees from his land. The first High Mass at Muenster was celebrated by Father Chrysostom August 20, 1903. in a tent. with Fathers Peter, John, and Casimir as choir. The first solemn High Mass celebrated at Muenster was on the feast of St Scholastica. February 10, 1904 by Father Peter with Fathers Rodolph and Chrysostom as deacon and subdeacon.

THE OLD SETTLERS

Now two score years and ten have passed,
Since stalwart men from distant climes,
Came west to test a fertile soil,
To plan a home on rolling plain.

* * *

The frontier days were none of ease,
Of carefree hours or pleasant dreams,
For test and trial of varied kind,
Met settler at each doubtful turn.

* * *

The prairie bleak that ne'er had felt
Ought else than thund'ring hoof
Or stealthy step of skulking beast
Soon quivered 'neath the busy plow.

* * *

The spring, soon after wintry blasts
Had spent their biting sting,
Brought wakened life in field and dale,
And roused the sinking hopes again.

* * *

That year it passed, and freshened hope
Urged calloused hands to hurry on
In building homes for loved ones,
Who soon arrived to help along.

* * *

Their efforts joined, now they could work
To found a home to call their own,
To forge ahead, with foresight keen,
That now we see was not in vain.

* * *

The silvered hair on furrowed brow,
Recall the days when settlers new
Laid shoulder to a worthy task,
That from above has well been blessed. J. H.

St. Benedict Parish, St Leo Mission, Middle Lake and Holy Trinity

Church of St. Benedict, at St. Benedict, destroyed by fire.

The third place selected for divine worship St Peter's Colony was St Benedict It was attended by Father Meinrad from Leofeld On January 21 903, Prior Alfred and Father Bruno celebrated Masses on the S. W 4 Sec 21 T 41 R 2

building erected by Anthony Hoeschen for the German American Land Co. in the fall of 1903 for the convenience of the settlers who were to arrive in the proposed Colony In a letter dated two weeks after his arrival at Leofeld, Father Meinrad stated that he intended to say Holy Mass in St Benedict 12 miles north of Leofeld where Fathers Alfred and Bruno had been. The building mentioned was later moved to the northwest quarter of the same section and became St Benedict's Church The adjacent stable was converted into living quarters for the priest, and both buildings served this purpose until the new St. Benedict's Church was erected on Sec 18. T 41. R. 24. The parish was thus founded by Father Meinrad as a

Leofeld Toward the beginning of 1907 Father Leo Ojdowski was appointed pastor of Leofeld and like Father Meinrad attended St Benedict regularly Seven months later July 1907 Prior Bruno decided to raise St Benedict's Mission to a parish and give it a resident priest to care for a mission west of it St Leo's Mission Father Leo was appointed first pastor and on October 13. 1907, took up his residence at St Benedict The country around St Benedict's parish was called Hoodoo district and that around St Leo. St Conrad district. In honor of the first pastor St Leo's Mission comprised about forty families homesteaders. They immediately began the building of a church and by April 26, 1908, it was sufficiently completed to have Mass in it The Bantle Brothers did the carpenter work on the church and were aided by the whole congregation. As soon as the church was finished a school was opened with John Medernach as teacher Joseph Bantle was the first organist and the choir consisted of the Kurtenbach and the Bantle families. Bishop Pascal blessed St Leo's Church June 7 1910, and confirmed the children of St Benedict's parish and St Leo's Mission in August 1916. That year Father George Scheffold preached a mission at St

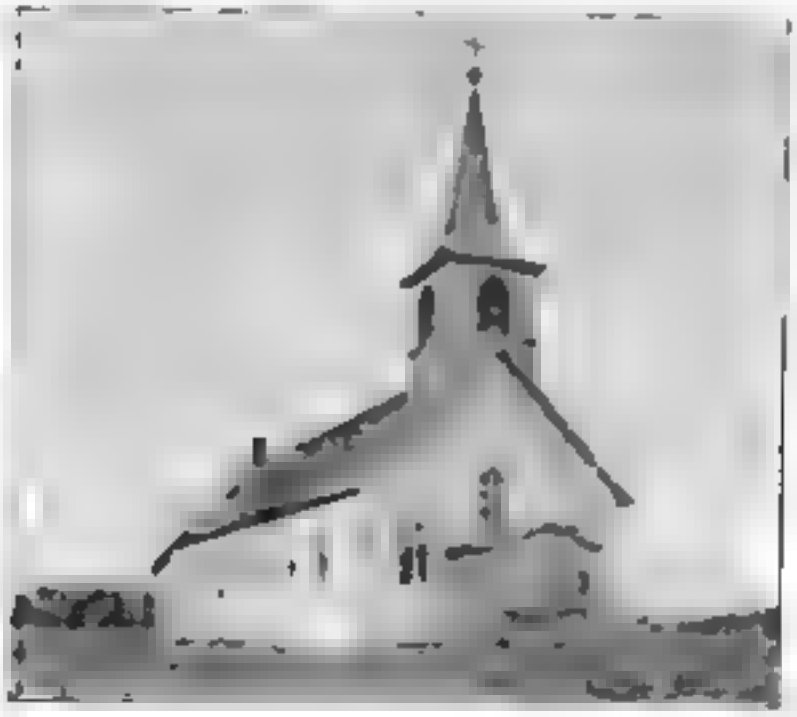
Mail service to St. Benedict was inaugurated April 1, 1904 Joseph Hanacek was the first carrier. and the first mail arrived from Leofeld on April George Brown was the St Benedict's first postmaster.

In March 1909 Father Leo was recalled to the monastery and Father Benedict Steigenberger was appointed to replace him During his pastorate the parish was moved to the east and the old church was replaced by a new one on Sec 18. T 41 R 24, and a parish house was erected beside the church Bishop Pascal blessed the church on the feast of the Ascension, May 21 1914. On that occasion Father Muganewski of Prince Albert sang the solemn High Mass, with Fathers Matthias and Benedict as deacon and subdeacon and Abbot Bruno and Father Philip Funke. O.M.I. present in the sanctuary After the High Mass Bishop Pascal preached, praising the congregation for their zeal in erecting such a beautiful church and rectory, confirmed 35 children. and in the afternoon blessed the two new bells giving them the names of Benedictus and Maria

Father Benedict guided the parish for six years and regularly visited St Leo's mission In March 1915 he was transferred to St Augustine's Church, Humboldt, and Father Rudolph Palm succeeded him

Father Rudolph was also in charge of both places. During his tenure till the middle of August 1924 he succeeded in wiping out most of the debts though he had to make many sacrifices to keep the parochial schools operating. The churches in both places were decorated by Mr Berthold Imhoff. St Leo's church was enlarged and in St Benedict's church he had a pipe organ installed. the only one of its kind in St Peter's Colony After years of labor he was appointed pastor of St Anthony's Church. Lake Lenore. and Father Bernard Schaeffler succeeded him

immediately after his arrival in 1924 Father Bernard captivated the hearts of the young men by organizing a brass band. When Abbot Michael came to confirm the young parishioners of St Benedict and St Leo. May 23. 1926. about 90 children he was met several miles from St Benedict by about 40 horsemen. and at the church the band rendered several selections. During the confirmation Abbot Michael was assisted by Fathers Bernard



Fridolin, Casimir and Leonard. Father Bernard remained only three years in St. Benedict till July 1927 when he was appointed pastor of St. Bruno's parish. Bruno, and Father Aurelius Rader ordained four years previously, became pastor

Father Aurelius was pastor of St. Benedict for 21 years and of the mission for 18 years St. Leo's being assigned to Cudworth in 1945. Father Aurelius remained at St. Benedict until his death 1948 just two months short of his twenty fifth anniversary of ordination. On April 24, 1943, he his parishioners received a rude shock, from so en cause the church caught fire on Holy Saturday afternoon and was totally destroyed. The parish hall was used as the place of worship for time, and the parish decided to build a basement costing $9000, 40 feet wide and 80 feet ong. The insurance realized from the fire amounted to $6500 and about $800 were collected the parishioners. Work began immediately, and b

pleted, and before winter the building w der roof and ready for divine service

In 1929 the Canadian Pacific Railway Company built a new railway line from Lanigan Humboldt to Prince Albert, and opened passenger service September 30, 1929. Along this line new towns sprang up, Fulda a few miles east of Fulda church, Pilger, five miles west of St. Bernard's Church, Middle Lake and St. Benedict, a few miles north east of St. Benedict's Church. I. these towns new churches were erected; St. Andrew's in St. Benedict, Canadian Martyrs n Middle Lake, Holy Trinity in Pilger, and a little winter chapel at Fulda. Mass was celebrated for e first time in Middle Lake by Father John pastor of Assumption Parish, Marysburg and St. Bernard's Church, old Pilger) during the summ 1936. A frame church was erected in 1937 and blessed by Prior Peter, September 26, 1937. Before this services were held in the school. In Pilger town services were held the first time, Nov. 30, 1947 by Fr. John in a machine shed. A large chapel was built in Nov. 1948, and used for divine services the first time Dec. 9, 1949. Holy Trinity is in the territory of St. Bernard's of which Father John a pastor, though Father Philip has Mass in the on his visits to Middle Lake.

The exact date of the first Mass in the town of St. Benedict could not be ascertained, but it is certain that the little frame church was erected 1930. It was built on railway property, but since Father Aurelius and the Company could not ee to an agreeable understanding, the parish purchased ten acres of land outside the townsite from Mr. Clement Peters, and in 1932 the church s moved. An announcement in St. Peter's Bote dated October 1, 1931, said that Holy Mass was to be celebrated at St. Andrew's mission on October at 8:30 A. M. and thereafter on every second Sunday following. In the same announcement Father Aurelius indicated that at the mission of St Leo he would celebrate Holy Mass on October 11 time every second Sunday following. At the parish f St. Benedict he would have two High Masses two low Masses every month. This schedule was maintained until September 1, 1945 when St. Leo's Mission was put in charge of Father Edward who attended it as pastor of Cudworth. Under Father Edward's administration a new frame church s erected at St. Leo's Mission in 1947 and blessed by Prior Peter in September.

June 16, 1938, the feast of Corpus Christi, was a day of joy for the parish of St. Benedict. Father Francis A. Demong O.M.I., a son of the parish, celebrated his first solemn High Mass. He was assisted by Fathers Aurelius, as assistant priest Rudolph, as deacon and Norbert, as subdeacon. Father Henry Krawitz, O.M.I., preached in German and Father Wilfrid Hengott O.S.B. in English. Father Demong had made his preliminary studies at St. Peter's College before joining the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Another day of joy was July 2, 1947, the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin, when Father Roman Schneider O.S.B. had his first solemn High Mass there. Father Demong assisted as dea Father Florian Rennerberg, a son of the neighboring parish of Leofeld, as subdeacon, Father Aurelius was assistant priest, and and Abbot Sev eached. Father Roman had made his classical studies at St. Peter's College and his philosophical and theological studies at St. John's Abbey, and was ordained on June 15, 1947 by Bishop Bartholome of St. Cloud.

A third son of St. Benedict's parish, (St. Leo's Mission), Francis Kolla, who also made his pre

Church of The Canadian Martyrs at Middle Lake

St. Ansgar Church, Sask.

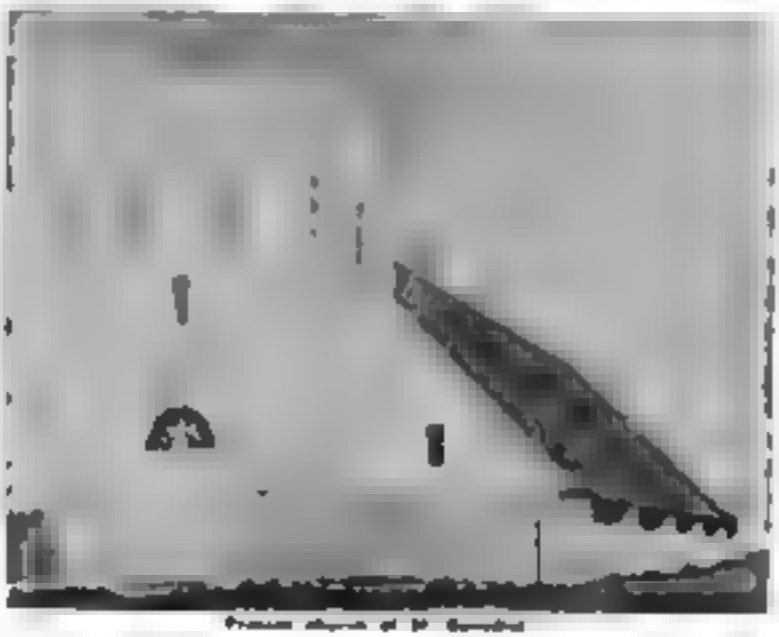
St Leo, but moved to Saskatoon, and Francis has been accepted as a candidate for the secular cl[ergy] of the diocese of Saskatoon. The follow[ing] ladies, whose parents have their homes in St Bene[dict's] Parish and St Leo's Mission have joined [the] [O]rder

[Sis]ter Mary Cordes Medernach Sis[ters] of St Martha Antigonish), Sister Carmelita Kolla, O.S.U., Sister Ignatia Billesberger, O.S.U.

While hearing confessions in t[he] Church at St Benedict March 24, 1948 the R[ev.] before Maundav Thursday Father Aurelius was taken seriously ill. He was taken to the hospital at Cudworth, where he died April 6. After the death of Father Aurelius, Father George had temporar[y] [ch]arge of the parish, and during this time the paris[h] house in St Benedict town St Andrew [Church] was built. When Father Alphonse later in the [year] was transferred from Carmel to St Benedict he took up his residence in the new house. Later the parish house at the old St. Benedict was sold [and] moved to Watson.

Father Alphonse had founded the mission of Canadian Martyrs at Middle Lake, and took care [of it] until 1939. In September of that year he was transferred to Carmel and Father Lacke replaced him at Middle Lake. In 1942 Father William Gehlen was put in charge until he was replaced by Father Philip Loehr in the fall of 194[3].

An approximate list of the pioneers of St Benedict's parish, who were still living at the time of the silver jubilee of St Peter's Colony in 1928 follows: Peter Bader Thos. Peters Sr. Hubert Diederichs, Andrew and A. P. Hennsdorfer, Geo. Billesberger, Anthony and Joseph Hackl, Andrew Schw[ab] Anthony Frank and Jos. Reinhart, Fred [Mar]tin Baron, Mich. Lovardy, George Martinka, Bernard Frie, Frank Kugler, Henry Gruendorg, A. J. Kroll, Fred Demong, Chas. Rueg[er] A. Schneider, Otto Seuffert, Chas. Richardson, Mich. Mueller, Stephen Siba, M. Iseger, Otto Fuerstenberg, Jos. Weber, Jos. Bonath, Jno. Zink [and] O'Bryan, Peter Kohn Sr. Pioneers that were [still] living within the boundaries of St. Leo's Mis[sion] in 1928 included Joseph Bantle, John, An[thony] and Ferdinand Kuttenbach, Peter Thill, Henry Roth, Albert Poegenhagen, Fr. Beding, Wm. Thronson, Henry Schmitz, Fritz Dierker, John Medernach, Jos. Pauli, Louis Dierker, Jos. Meder[er], Fr. Pauli, Jos. Lepitzki, Andrew Yurik, Ke[n]neth, John Hutnack, Henry Bantle.



Previous church of St. Benedict

St Michael's Parish, Cudworth

and St Maurus' Mission, Dana

St. Michael's Parish, Cudworth, is located where the first settlers of St. Peter's Colony entered the fifty townships which now form the Abbey Nullius of St. Peter. Father Meinrad Seifermann, O.S.B. celebrated the first Holy Mass only a short distance south east of the present town on May 17, 1903. The location is now marked by a wooden cross on the southwest quarter of Sec. 32, Township 41, Range 26, about 40 miles southeast of Rosthern. Three or four shacks gave shelter to the settlers and in one of them Fred Imhoff had opened a [illegible] hut. Here, in a most primitive chapel, Father [illegible] said conducted services, while the Imhoff family and Mr. Wm. Benz constituted the choir for High [illegible]. The [illegible] settlement and Father Meinrad decided to locate on the southwest quarter of section 14, Township 40, Range 26, about seven miles to the south east. Here he took up homestead and called the little hamlet, Leofeld, the original location retaining the [illegible]feld for a time.

In 1911 the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway constructed a new line from Prince Albert through the western part of the Colony and then the town

Church of St. Michael & Rectory at Cudworth.

of Cudworth was born, a short distance from Old Leofeld. The name of the town perpetuates the memory of Ralph Cudworth, a distinguished English philosopher who was a strong opponent of the atheistic tendencies of the sixteenth century. The [illegible] attracted many of the farmers from Leofeld and the neighboring districts. Most of the business men were Catholics and felt the need of a church in town, so Father Matthias acceded to their request and celebrated Mass in the public school of the town on December 8, 1912 for the first time. About 100 persons were present at this first service, and thereafter he visited Cudworth at least once a month. In March 1914 Messrs. Frank Green, Jacob Eull and Anthony M. Gasper were elected trustees of the mission, and approved by Bishop Pascal. This arrangement of monthly services continued for about seven years, during which time the town continued to grow. Everyone felt that a church and resident pastor were urgently needed; permission to build a church was given and by September 1920 it was completed and blessed by Abbot Michael. The Archangel Michael was chosen as the patron of the church. Many of the parishioners had come from St. Michael's in Minnesota. They and Abbot Michael, whose patron had been selected, felt particularly honored. On the day of the blessing Father Joseph Wickel celebrated the solemn High Mass with Fathers Casimir and Marcellus as deacon and subdeacon. Abbot Michael and Father Bernard preached. After Mass Abbot Michael confirmed seven children and one adult. The Cudworth choir sang for the service which closed with the Te Deum. At this time there were about 25 families in the parish — 125 persons. Father Fridolin was named pastor of Leofeld on May 3, 1923, and also had charge of St. Michael's Mission. This arrangement lasted until the end of September 1924, when Father Casimir became the resident pastor of Cudworth.

In 1920 a member of the congregation donated a 700 lb. bell which was blessed by Abbot Michael, on May 8, 1921 and given the name St. John. Before the blessing Abbot Michael explained the ceremonies of the blessing and the function of the bell at divine services. This bell did not last very long. It cracked in 1928 and could not be [illegible] Christmas that year. It was replaced in 1929 by two bells which Abbot Severin blessed July 28, 1929 giving them the names of St. Michael and Ma[illegible]

The first wedding solemnized in the [illegible] church at Cudworth took place on November 23, 1920, when at a High Mass celebrated by Father Matthias, Vincent Ronnellenfitsch of St. Benedict, a brother of two Benedictine priests, Fathers Anthony and Victor both of St. John's Abbey, became the husband of Catherine Schinkel-Mueller of Cudworth. The bride had been received into the Catholic Church on November 3, 1920. A news report sent to the St. Peter's Bote at the beginning of 1923 stated that the trustees Messrs. Frank Wunderlich, Jacob Eull and A. M. Casper, who had held this position almost from the beginning were re-elected. It likewise stated that $1000 of the debt had been paid off during 1922, and that the remaining debt was about $1000. The altar society did very good work, and contributed about $400 to the church. Mrs. Regina Wunderlich was Pre[illegible] of the society and Miss Lizzie Schmidt [illegible]

At the invitation of Father Fridolin the Volksverein held its Third Annual District Katholikentag at Cudworth, July 8 and 9, 1924. Abbot Michael celebrated a Pontifical High Mass, at which Fathers Peter, Fridolin, Matthew, Joseph Sittenauer, Charles Cannon, O.S.B., a visitor from St. John's Abbey, and Fratres Wilfrid and Francis were ministers. Other priests of the Colony present at the occasion were Fathers Matthias, Rudolph Aurelius and Ignatius. Father Peter preached the [illegible] but was obliged to cut it short because of [illegible] he altar was erected outside. On the second day he celebrated a solemn Requiem High Mass for the deceased pioneers of the Colony. The Annaheim and St. Benedict bands were present and the Cudworth choir sang. In the afternoon the bands led the assembled visitors through the town in a grand parade and in the evening the Annaheim band gave a short concert in the town hall.

Father Casimir became resident pastor in September 1924, and soon the parish house was built. Encouraged by Father Casimir, the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Humboldt undertook the management of the Dr. Longuett's hospital, on December 1, 1924, and Abbot Michael blessed the building on December 14. Patients arriving in large

bers from Cudworth, Wakaw, Dana and Prud'homme, facilities were not sufficient to accommodate them, so it was decided to erect a larger building. In May 1926 Father Casimir and Anthony Studelmann of Engelfeld, the contractor, selected the site for the new building on the south western fringe of the town. Excavation began on June 16, 1926, and on December 12, 1926 the hospital was formally opened. It was solemnly blessed on May 29, 1927 by Abbot Severin, three weeks after he had been blessed as Abbot That morning Father Casimir celebrated High Mass in St Michael's church and Father Abbot preached in German and English. After services the ladies of the parish served a banquet in the town hall, at which the following spoke: Fathers Casimir and Bernard, Messers Wiebe, mayor of Cudworth, Frank Wunderlich, trustees of the church, Bolger the school and Dr J A McDonald the resident physician. Father Abbot also had words of praise for the splendid cooperation the people had shown in building the hospital. After the program in the hall the entire assembly together with 60 school children went to the hospital for the blessing. In 1929 the hospital reported that the building satisfied all the requirements of a

system, a large operating room, an X-ray machine and all necessary appurtenances It had sufficient room for 25 patients and the Sisters residing there During the year it cared for 529 patients of whom 407 were discharged as cured, 134 operations were performed by Drs Genereux and Kenshaw, and 93 persons were X-rayed. For the past eleven years Dr Jerome Schropp has been the resident Doctor at Cudworth, and these figures are considerably increased

St Michael's Hospital observed its silver jubilee on June 1, 1952 Prior Peter celebrated a solemn High Mass in St Michael's Church and preached the sermon. In the afternoon Father Prior blessed a beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin, donated by Dr Schropp, and erected on the hospital grounds. A program followed, consisting of songs by Collette and Rita Kohle, Ella Lange and Mrs Johnson. Father Florian briefly reviewed the work of the Sisters of St Elizabeth in Cudworth from

he came the first sod was turned on June 16, 1926 to June 1952 A Nurses Residence was erected close to the hospital in 1950-51

Because of the growth of the town of Cudworth and its Catholic population the church was enlarged and renovated under the supervision of Father Casimir during the summer of 1930. On September 21 the church was again opened for services. Since it was practically a new church Abbot Severin blessed it on October 19 1930 That morning seven boys and seven girls made their first holy communion and in the afternoon Father Abbot confirmed 15 boys and 13 girls

Father Casimir celebrated his silver jubilee on June 10, 1931 Father Abbot presided in the sanctuary and almost all the Fathers of St Peter's Colony attended A number of priests from outside the Colony came to revive with Father Casimir At 10:00 A. M Father Casimir sang a solemn High Mass assisted by Fathers Leo and Hyacinth his brother, deacon and subdeacon. Father Abbot preached in English and Father Peter in German After the services the ladies of the parish served a banquet at which Abbot Severin, James Hogan Hy Theres, Dr J H Ulrich and Father Richard spoke Presentations and congratulatory addresses were given by the mayor of Cudworth, the president of the board of trade, the principal of the school and by various societies of the parish. The Bruno band under the direction of Father Bernard contributed much to the enjoyment of the occasion

Father Casimir also had charge of St Maurus Mission at Dana. Being of Polish descent he could speak the language spoken by many parishioners St Maurus' mission was begun by Father Chrysostom who celebrated Mass there for the first time on January 20, 1906 It was a High Mass and was celebrated in Fred Ionoff's store. The choir from Leofeld was present and since it was Saturday Father Meinrad was also able to attend Father Chrysostom announced that day that henceforth services would be held there twice a month Up to the present this arrangement had been continued The church was built in 1907 and was ready for services on June 24 a solemn High Mass celebrated by Father Chrysostom with Fathers Leo and Matthias as deacon and subdeacon. The church

addition to serve as sacristy. That same year a 350 lb bell was ordered and mounted in the belfry. Bishop Pascal visited Dana July 3, 1910 confirmed 2 Prior Bruno sang the High Mass and Fathers Chrysostom and Casimir assisted the Bishop who preached in French and English before confirmation. Father Chrysostom was in charge of St Maurus' Mission until the summer of 1918 when Father Leo, pastor of Bruno, visited the mission until Father Casimir was appointed

Father Casimir died rather suddenly, July 1 1940. After his death Father Paul Kuebne had temporary charge of Cudworth and Dana until August 1940, when Father Gallus Scherman, O S. B., from Innsbruck, Austria, was appointed pastor. When he went to the United States, Sept 2 1943 Father Edward succeeded him. On September 1 1945 Father Edward was relieved of the Mission at Dana and given charge of St Leo's

In August 1940 Father Lawrence, former pastor of St Joseph's Church at Fulda was appointed of St. Michael's Hospital He held this position until his death. June 30, 1960. at the age 92 years Here he had the rare happiness of celebrating his diamond jubilee of the priesthood September 16, 1945 The venerable jubilarian ted to sing a High Mass, but his physician dissuaded him Instead he said a low Mass, again the words "I will go unto the altar of God unto God, who giveth joy to my youth." which he said more than 24000 times during the sixty years of his priesthood, Abbot Severin preached the festive sermon. Fathers Xavier and Edward attended the jubilarian, and Prior Peter officiated at the solemn Benediction which followed Three little girls, dressed in white, Charlotte Wunderlich Norma Waldbillig and Shirley Wiebe acted as brides, and one of them recited a poem recalling the dignity of the priest, and the joy and thanksgiving inherent to the occasion

St. Michael's Parish celebrated its silver jubilee on September 24, 1949 Prior Peter celebrated the High Mass and preached the festive sermon mentioning some of the principal historical events of the parish

There is another Catholic Church in Cudworth, belonging to the Ruthenian Greek Rite Abbot Severin blessed the corner stone for this church according to the Latin rite on August 15

the Greek rite by Father P Aleksiw assisted by Fathers E Drohomiretzky and Androwich. The church was completed the same year, so that Father Drohomiretzky was able to hold services in it for Christmas, which according to the Ruthenian Calendar was celebrated on January 7 1929 The present pastor is Father C. Lotocky and his assistant Father J. Oberlanyk

Before concluding this sketch of Cudworth Leofeld and Dana we must mention the Mission established by Father Luke, in 1947 It is the Mission of the Holy Family, a frame building erected the SE ¼ Sec 1 T 40. R 25. about equally distant from Bruno Willmont St Benedict and Leofeld The church was blessed by Prior Peter on August 3, 1947 On September 4, 1949 Abbot Severin visited the little congregation and conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on 17 boys and 10 girls In his sermon Father Abbot dwelt on the necessity of religious instruction and the importance of prayer in the family, especially the daily family Rosary In the afternoon of the same day Abbot Severin confirmed 23 boys and 12 girls at St Boniface's Church, Leofeld. There also he counseled the parishioners to remain faithful to the daily Rosary Father Luke was appointed chaplain of St Elizabeth's Hospital, Hoomboldt in September 1952 and Father Matthew succeeded him is pastor of Leofeld and Holy Family Mission

Former church of St. Joseph, Polish.

Chapel in Mansion of Polish.

St. John's Mission, Willmont

Prior Alfred can be considered the founder of the third parish, St. Joseph's at Fulda. The name Fulda is derived from the old high German word Fultaha, meaning water-sand. A famous Abbey founded in 744 by Abbot Sturmius the disciple of St. Boniface, Apostle of Germany, was named Fulda and one of its celebrated Abbots was St. Rabanus Maurus, later Archbishop of Mainz. To commemorate this great Abbey, secularized in 1809 the name Fulda was given to the district in which St. Joseph's Parish was established.

Prior Alfred made many trips through the fifty townships assigned to him and his priests to study the situation. At that time there were no roads laid out geometrically as now. In the course of one of these he said Mass in the log cabin of Mr. Wm. Kreizenbeck on the western shore of Dead Moose Lake, in the present parish of St. Joseph. This was on July 18, 1903. Father Peter said Mass there on July 26, 1903, and several times more before winter. Mr. Charles Hemmelgarn, a pioneer at Fulda, wrote the following, dated June 17, 1904:

"I am a member of St. Joseph's Congregation which extends from the west shore of Dead Moose Lake. The parish was organized during the summer of 1903 and divine services were held every second Sunday for quite a while in the house of Mr. Kreizenbeck. But since the house of M. Kreizenbeck was too small to hold the faithful, and since the [illegible] erect a church, we were advised by Prior Alfred to attend services during the winter in the store of Mr. Godfrey Schaeffer about 8 miles farther south. The settlers were quite satisfied with this arrangement, since they found it necessary to go to Mr. Schaeffer's store anyway to make purchases. Now, however, the winter is over and since the settlers have increased in number we have decided, with the consent of Prior Alfred to build a church on the site which had been designated for this purpose last summer. The new church is to be erected on the NE ¼ of Sec. 32, T. 38, R. 23. Even now the church is in the course of erection. It is to be 20 x 40, built of logs and is to have a roof of shingles. The trustees are Peter Schneider, Carl and John Stolz. There are 40 families and some bachelors living within a radius of three miles."

To complete Mr. Hemmelgarn's report, a brief reference may be made here to the former St. Bernard's Church which was located close to the present Dixon Siding, west of Humboldt. Father Chrysostom said Mass there for the first time on All Saints' Day, 1903, in Mr. Schaeffer's Store, Sec. 28, T. 37, R. 23. From the summer of 1904 to the fall of 1905 Father Peter said Mass there every second Sunday, first in a tent and later in a little log church. While Mass was still being offered in the tent, Father Peter urged the people to complete the erection of the church, saying, "the priest can not very well wear mittens while saying Holy Mass." Mr. Schaeffer and Prior Alfred had hopes that a town would arise at the present site of Dixon, and that possibly the C.N.R. would build a [illegible] there. Their hopes were futile; Humboldt grew into an important center and the round house was placed there. When it was found necessary to organize a parish at Humboldt, St. Bernard's Mission died a natural death. The church was torn down, and the remaining debt on it was paid by the Priory. As partial reimbursement, the roof was moved to Muenster and used as a covering for the Priory machine shed.

The log church at Fulda was completed by August 1904, and Father Chrysostom said the first Mass in it. A large flat stone served as a pavement at the entrance of the church. The visiting priest stayed with a good Irish couple. Father Chrysostom had charge of the mission until 1905 when Father Ildephonse Molitor, O.S.B. was appointed first resident pastor, arriving on July 27, 1905. Since there was no parish house near the church he boarded at the Manning home.

Bishop Pascal blessed the church August 1905 and conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 17 young members of the parish. Fathers Ildephonse, Dominic and Peter were present. Father Ildephonse, the bishop and Father Peter said Mass early in the morning, and in the absence of a server they served each other's Mass. At breakfast that morning the Bishop remarked: "today an honor

[illegible]

[illegible]

came to me for which even the angels in heaven might envy me I had the honor to serve a priest's Mass." Father Dominic celebrated the High Mass At dinner in his home Mr Mamung used a poplar branch as a fan to keep the mosquitos away from the guests. The first parish house in Fulda was built in the fall of 1905 and Father Ildephonse was able to move into it during the first week of Oc

The year 1905 brought another joyful feast to the parish when Father Ildephonse celebrated the silver jubilee of his priesthood on October 10 At 10:00 A.M. he sang a solemn High Mass with Fathers Dominic and Bruno Doerfler as deacon and subdeacon. Father Rudolph was master of cer and Prior Alfred preached. At the picnic which followed the Mass the sum of $158.00 realized, a sizeable sum those days The choir and brass band, composed chiefly of members St Peter's Priory attended, and helped to make the

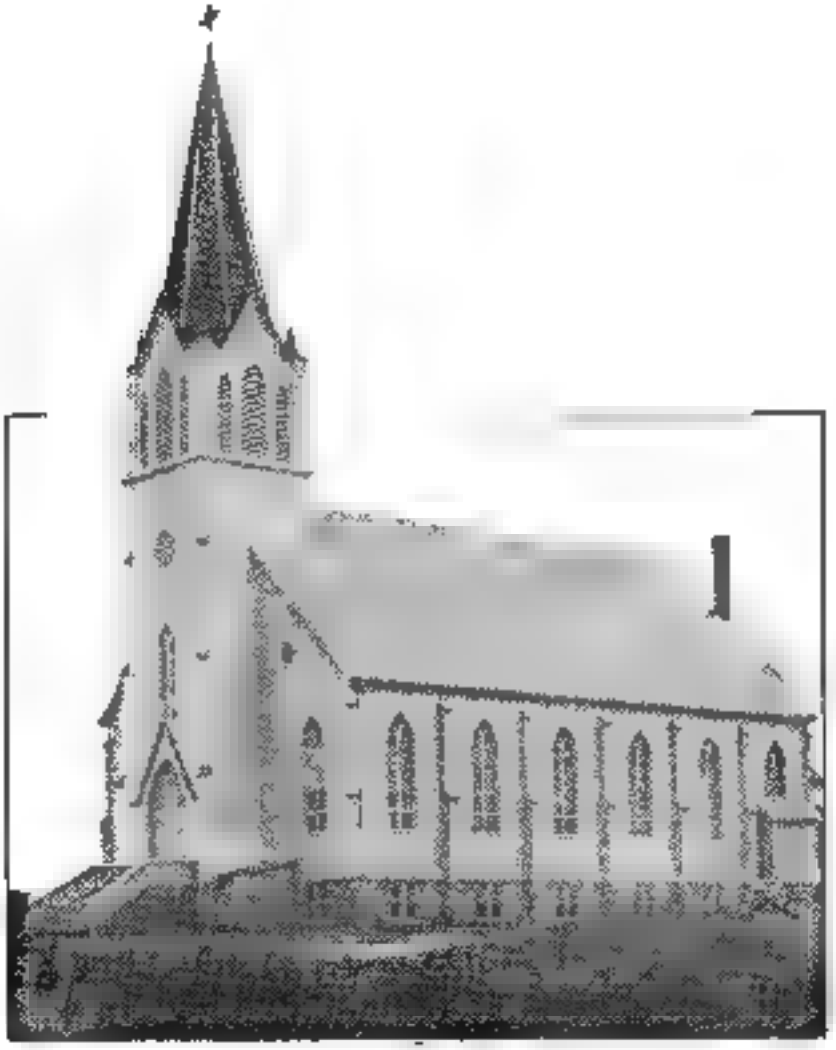
The log church was soon too small for the growing congregation, for no other parish in the Colony had as many young families as Fulda. In 1906 the parishioners began to erect a larger frame church. The plans were drawn by Bielmaier and Sons, Milwaukee and the contract was let to Arnoldy and Walerius of Leofeld. On Decembe 5, 1906 the following report appeared in the St Peter's Bote: "November 25 will long be remem ered by St Joseph's Parish. On that day services ere held for the first time in the new church and boys and six girls received their first holy munion. It was a beautiful sunny day At 10 o'clock Father Ildephonse and the first communicants marched in procession from the old church into the new one. Arriving at the foot of the altar the first communicants renewed their baptismal vows afte which the choir sang an appropriate hymn. After High Mass all went back to the old church where dinner was served."

Bishop Pascal blessed the church June 4, 1907 On June 3 the bishop accompanied by Prior Bru Father Rudolph, arrived from Humboldt in a decorated carriage, preceded by a group of horse men from the boundary of the parish to the church. After blessing the church, he celebrated Pontifical High Mass with Prior Bruno, and Fa ther Dominic as deacon and subdeacon. Father Dominic preached and after the services the Bish op confirmed 19 parishioners. The ladies of the parish served dinner and supper in the parochial school which had also been erected under the supervision of Father Ildephonse

On June 5 the Bishop and the clergy drove to St John's Church, Willmont, where Bishop Pas cal blessed the little log church which served as parochial school on week days. Prior Bruno cele brated a solemn High Mass with Fathers Dominic nd Rudolph as deacon and subdeacon Bishop cal expressed his joy at being able to bless another ch in the Colony, and praised the people for supporting the parochial school

Services in the Willmont district were first conducted by Father Chrysostom December 27 904, in the home of M. Hubert Rauw As in St Joseph's Church up to the arrival of Father Ilde phonse, Mass was celebrated on week days, at which all the pioneers of the district were present as though it were Sunday. Great care was given the organization of the parochial schools Under date of August 28, 1904, Father Chrysostomus reported n St Peter's Bote: "It is proposed to conduct school during the fall in St Joseph's Church, and Henry Kalthoff, who had taught school in the United States, has been selected as teacher." Pa rochial schools were organized at St Joseph's Parish, St John's Mission, St Michael's Parish St Boniface Parish, and in other parishes and missions of the Colony

The mission of Willmont — it was named af ter the town Willmont, Minn. — was placed under the patronage of St John the Baptist in honor of St. John's Abbey St John the Baptist called him self "the voice of one crying in the wilderness; pre pare the way of the Lord" (Matth. 3, 3). When Father Bruno Doerfler came to this district in the course of his inspection trip, September 23, 1902 he spent the night in the open, about three miles of the Government Trail. In the seemingly endless wilderness, with no human being within miles, he too could have cried out, "I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness; prepare the way of the Lord."



Church of St. John Baptist, Willmont

Father Ildephonse attended the congregation of St. Joseph's Church and Willmont Mission regularly and faithfully until a serious ailment which necessitated an operation, forced him to leave for Minnesota on August 16, 1912. The operation was successful but it weakened him that he had to give up parochial work. In 1919 he enjoyed a visit to St. Peter's Colony. He celebrated his golden jubilee of the priesthood at St. John's Abbey, August 16, 1930, at which Father Dominic preached the jubilee sermon.

To replace Father Ildephonse, Abbot Peter Engel sent Father Lawrence Stenkogler, O.S.B. He arrived at Muenster on September 19, 1912, and next day Father Casimir conducted him to Fulda where he was to remain 28 years. In the last years he was assisted by Father Luke for three years and by Father Constantine Thelen, O.S.B., for a few months. He was 54 years of age when he arrived at Fulda, and left it at the age of 82. Besides his pastoral work he was Postmaster of Fulda for some

The first problem Father Lawrence and the congregation at Willmont had to solve was the erection of a new church to replace the old log building. In October 1915 plans for the new frame structure with full basement were completed by an architect, and work began in 1916. The St. Peter's Bote reported the following. "November 23 was a memorable day. On that day Father Lawrence held the last divine service in the old church, concluding with a short sermon. After the service the entry into the new church, that is, into the basement of the new church took place. John Rauw carried the statue of St. John, the patron saint of the church, the children carried the candlesticks and the flowers, the pastor carried the monstrance, chalice, ciborium and altar stone, while members of the congregation carried the confessional and other articles. From November 1, 1904 till November 23, 1916, 160 baptisms were administered, 16 marriages blessed, 16 persons interred, and 5,500 communions distributed. Is it not astonishing how many spiritual graces God attaches to a church, be it only a log church or a miserable board shack? The good Lord will from now on find a worthy habitation at Willmont.

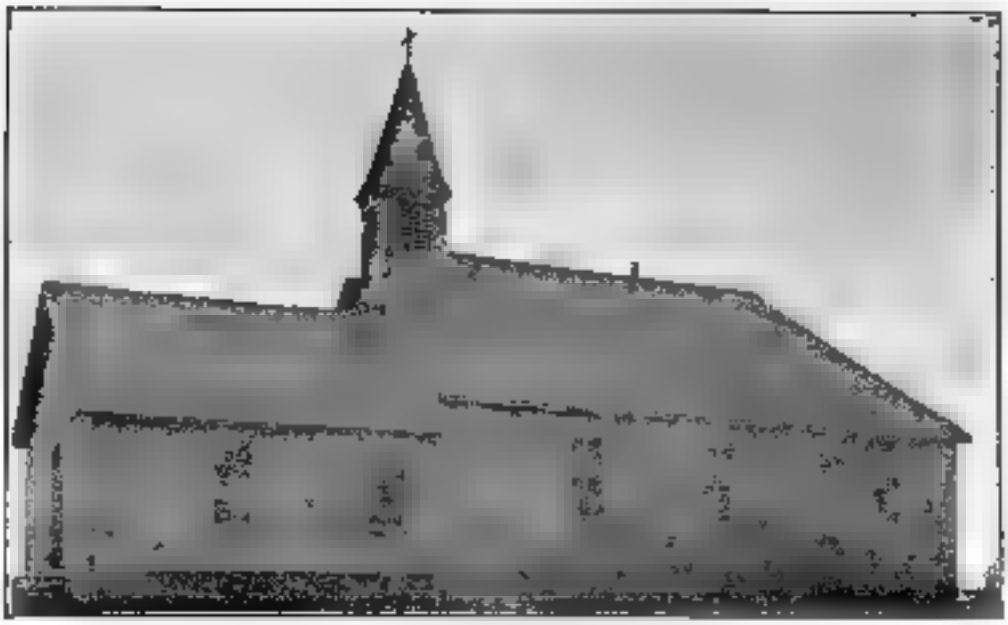
In late summer of 1918 three beautiful wood carved altars were set up in the church. The church was blessed by Abbot Michael on June 24, 1920, assisted by Father Lawrence and Father Dominic. Father Abbot celebrated a Pontifical High Mass after the blessing and Father Lawrence delivered the sermon. It was a rainy day and Father Lawrence chose for his text the words from the Acts of the Apostles, "John indeed baptized with water." (Acts I. 5.) In spite of the unfavorable weather the church was filled. The Bruno choir sang for the Mass and Fathers Leo, Rudolph, and Casimir were present.

At Fulda Father Lawrence built a new parish house in 1924 of which he was justly proud. On June 7, 1937, as a result of a defective chimney, this house burned down, but most of the contents were saved. With the insurance and the help of his parishioners, a new house was built that same

On October 6, 1935, Father Lawrence celebrated his golden jubilee of the priesthood in Fulda, and on October 13, in Willmont. At St. John's parish the jubilee Mass was celebrated out[illegible] the church. Before Mass the trustees of the parish presented Father Lawrence with a new chalice and a golden vestment which Father Lawrence blessed just before the jubilee Mass. Gertrude Weydeman representing the school children, recited an address

[illegible]erkamp, Nora Buttinger and Christina Wegleitner presented a golden crown and the host for the Mass on a silken cushion. Abbot Severin preached the jubilee sermon in German and stressed the fact that honors given to a priest are really shown to Christ, since the priest is Christ's representative. Prior Peter was assistant priest, Father Aloysius and Gregory were deacon and subdeacon. Fathers Dominic and Benedict assisted Father Abbot at the throne and Father Stephen was Master of ceremonies, and the choir of St. John's Church sang at the service. About twenty uniformed musicians under the direction of Mr. Hugh MacDonald, principal of the Humboldt Separate School, entertained the guests. During the afternoon many priests and others arrived to congratulate the jubilarian. This was the first golden sacerdotal jubilee celebrated in St. Peter's Colony. On October 13 at Willmont, the jubilarian was also presented with a go

Present Church of St. Joseph and Rectory at Fields

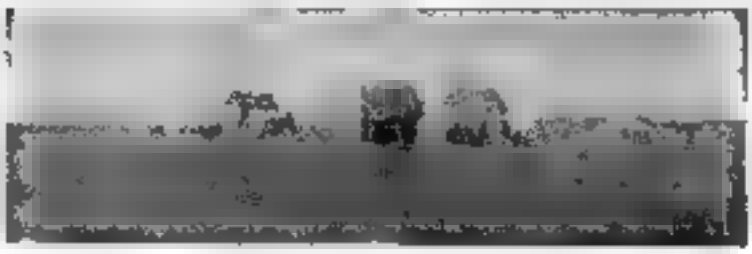


Former Church of St. John Baptist, Wilmont

den vestment. The assistants at the altar were the same as at Fulda and Prior Peter preached the sermon. The jubilee brides were Clara Loeke Coelestine Krenn and Verna Lohmann. The St Benedict band joined the choir at the Te Deum after the service, and played during the dinner served by the ladies of the parish in the basement of the church.

When Father Lawrence, at the age of 82 years after having served Fulda and Willmont for 28 years, a fellow priest-friend and chaplain of the hospital at Cudworth. Father Abbot appointed Father Matthew, August 1940. During his administration, the frame church, built in 1906 and now too small for the congregation was replaced with a larger basement church costing $ 7000. It satisfied the needs of the parish and has the advantage of being easy to heat during the cold winter months.

Father Matthew remained at Fulda for three years, leaving September 1943, to become pastor again of Engelfeld, and Father Stephen succeeded him. Father Stephen celebrated his silver jubilee of the priesthood at Fulda on June 17, 1951, when he sang a Solemn High Mass with Fathers Wilfred and Alfred as deacon and subdeacon. Father Abbot was present in the sanctuary attended by Father Paul and Father H. Bartley, C.Ss.R., of Saskatoon, who had opened a mission renewal in St. John's Church earlier that morning. The jubilarian was led in procession from the rectory to the church where he was presented a cushion by little Diane Becker, Joan Wourms and Elaine Bieringer. Diane recited a beautiful tribute to the priesthood. Father Abbot preached the jubilee sermon and Father Bartley added a few words in reference to the Mission Renewal scheduled at Fulda the following week. The jubilee celebration at St. John's Church took place on July 8, 1951. At the solemn High Mass the jubilarian was assisted by Fathers Wilhelm and Albert as deacon and subdeacon. Father Abbot preached in German and English. The little flower girls in attendance were Marcella Frank, Marian Roettger and Lillian Mertz. Parish festivals were held on both occasions.



An early parish farmstead

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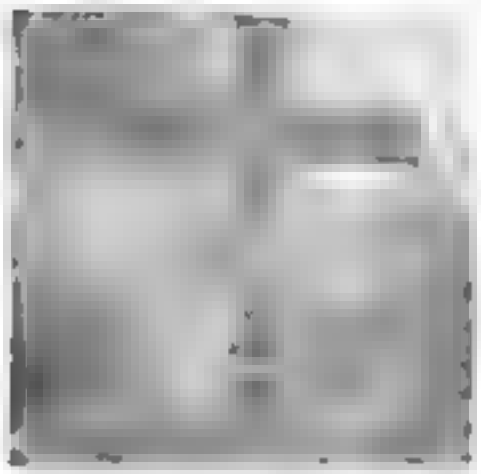
Assumption Parish Marysburg

and St. Bernard Mission, Pilger



Cross erected one mile west of present Marysburg site of first Mass.

The first services in Marysburg were held on Sunday July 19, 1903, when Prior Alfred had the first Holy Mass in the dining room of Mr Lawrence Lindberg's house. After the services a meeting was held and the following trustees were elected as the nucleus of the new parish: August Moeller John Kraus and Henry Brockhage. At the meeting it was resolved to build a log church on the north

Since that quarter had not yet been taken up as

Bruno Doerffer and to designate the place as a homestead, Mr. Kraus pushed a few poplar poles into the ground and placed some tree branches as a sort of roof over them to give it the shape of a shade hut

Two weeks later, on August 12, Mass was again said at Lindbergh's home at 8:00 a. m. by Father Chrysostom Hoffmann, O.S.B., who arrived from the U.S. a few days before and at 10:00 o'clock Father Bruno had another Mass with sermon, about 30 persons were present

The first settlers east of Dead Moose Lake Lawrence and Charles Lindberg, John K Henr Theresa, August Moeller, Henry Brockhage Henry Lessmeister, Peter Funk, Frank Massaro George Roederer, Casper Felbin Dionisius Frank Michael Burton, John Mueller, Fred. Distel Nicholas Eschen, Henry and Joseph Weiland and

at German crossing Rosthern 80 miles to the north their nearest railway station and they trekked this distance with horses and oxen and loaded wagons, or on foot

On August 8, 1903, the site of the cemetery was selected by Fr. Peter and on the following day Sunday afternoon, the two year old daughter of Mr and Mrs. John Kraus was laid to rest. Her father made the coffin and her brother George dug the grave

Mass was said quite regularly every second Sunday, and a little log church, 16 x 32 - pleted by Christmas, 1903, so that Holy Mass could e celebrated in it for the first time on that day It was not necessary to set up a crib because the church itself resembled the birthplace of Christ the Lord. The Mass was said by Father Chrysostom who had been appointed the first pastor of the district The expenses connected with the erection of the church amounted to $287 70; $250 being borrowed from Mr. Alois Frank The following year the church was too small, and was lengthened eight feet. While hearing confessions the priest had to sit on a nail keg, until several chairs were donated in 1905

The first highmass with organ accompaniment was celebrated Nov. 2, 1904 Mr F X Streeby having donated his organ and acting as first On his visits the priest stayed at Lindberg's house or tent, and slept in the tent or on the floor of the store On Feb 19, 1905, Father Peter appointed pastor As Father Bruno was not to fulfill the duties of a homesteader Henry Bittman was granted the quarter section on which the church stood, the government ceded ten

Mr Bittman donated 30 acres to the parish A feast of the first order was Aug. 24, 1905 Bishop Pascal blessed the log church. I Dominic celebrated High Mass and Prior A fred preached After Highmass the Bishop ad stered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 7

members of the congregation, Mr John Kraus and Mrs. Agnes Lessmeister acting as sponsors. At the blessing of the church, the parish was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin under the title of her Assumption, one of the reasons apparently being the fact that Prior Alfred had been pastor of the Assumption Church at St. Paul, Minn. (In 1933 when the Holy See was asked to declare the bodily assumption of the Blessed Virgin a dogma of faith, no less than 4,710 signatures from the inhabitants of St Peter's Colony were added to the petition, 180 coming from the parish of the Assumption, and from Pilger. "The Assumption of the B.V.M. was proclaimed as article of faith by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. on All Saints Day Nov 1, 1950, a most appropriate day, since Mary is the Queen of all the Saints.

The first baptism in the parish was administered by Father Chrysostom to Caecilia Freckage on Sept 20, 1903, and the first couple joined in the sacrament of Matrimony on June 23, 1904 George Riederer and Catherine Frank. The first solemn Highmass was celebrated Dec 8, 1905 by Father Peter Father Leo, as deacon, gave his first sermon on this occasion, and Father Bernard

On March 19, 1906, the feast of St Joseph a parish meeting was held at which it was decided to build a church, 40 x 60, with a steeple 80 ft high, at an estimated cost of $2,850 On April 1 the site was chosen and approved and work began

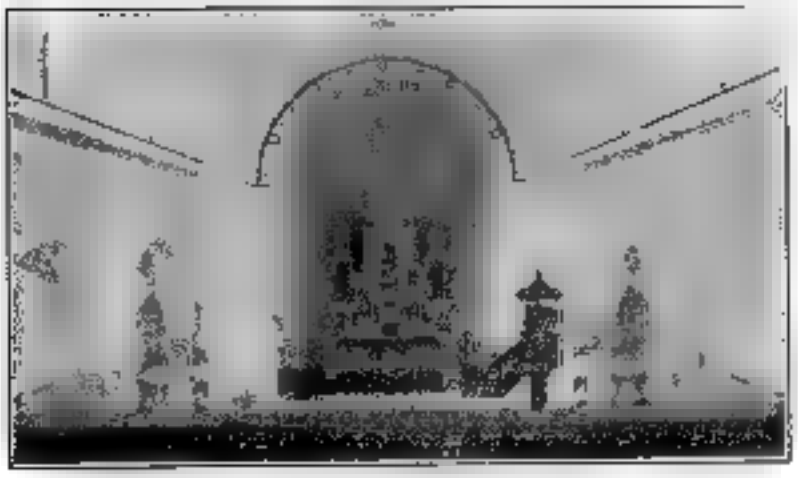
diately Mr John Kraus offered to do the work for the foundation free of charge and the ct was let to Messers. Arnoldy and Waterius Leofeld. The building was sufficiently completed by July 1, 1906, so that Father Lambert Burton O.S.B., a member of St Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kans. and the son of Mr. and Mrs Michael Burton, members of the parish, was able to celebrate his first solemn Highmass in it. At this solemn service, Father Peter was assistant priest Fathers Dominic and Casimir were deacon and subdeacon. Father Dominic preached and took for his text "Behold, we have left all things and have followed Thee what therefore shall we have?" (Matt 9, 27) The speaker compared the priest to Shepherd willing to forsake the goods of this world, even his own parents, in order to follow Christ and lead souls to Heaven. During the same service twelve children of the parish made their first Holy Communion Dinner was served by the of the parish in the adjoining grove, and the brass band from Muenster abbey entertained the

In the following July 3, Mr F J. Lange, the president of the Catholic Settlement Society, who played an important role in the founding of St Peter's Colony, and later in the founding of S Joseph's Colony married Mary Lessmeister Father Peter officiating

On Oct 22, 1906, the new 400 lb bell arrived, a donation from a generous member of the parish. John Bittmann hauled it from Muenster to the Church with his oxen. The new church was blessed November 11, 1906 by Bishop Pascal, who was assisted at Mass by Prior Bruno and Father Leo The bell was blessed after Mass and named "Maria Immaculata." In his sermon the Bishop praised the people for the spirit of sacrifice and devotedness to their faith Next day the bell was hoisted into the tower At the sound of the sweet voice of the bell a good lady remarked: "Now we are at home again Thus bell called the faithful of Marysburg to the House of God, and was regularly rung at the time of the Angelus, morning, noon and evening by Mr F X Strueby, until it was torn from its lofty height in the terrific storm of June 27, 1919, when the church was demolished. The bell remained in and is still functioning in the present

Father Peter was replaced by Father Boniface Puth O.S.B. on August 20, 1906, but only to the end of the year, when Father Bernard was placed in temporary charge In April 1909 Father Boniface was again appointed and attended regularly till the beginning of 1913. His successor was Father Casimir who already on March 23, 1913, Easter Sunday, took steps to erect a parish house, and for that purpose had a building committee elected The plan, however was shelved until the year 1915 and instead a combination Sisters' and parish school house, 44 x 44, was decided upon. This building was erected during the summer and fall of 1914 and was named St. Angela School and Convent It is still in use as a Sisters' house and school, but the name is now St Henry's School. It served the Ursuline Nuns as their headquarters until the fall of 1919 when they established their Mother house at Bruno. The Ursulines opened St Angela's School on Jan. 7, 1915, with Mother Clara and

Imposing altar at Marysburg



Interior of Assumption Church in 1948 — Redecorated since.

Sister Wulburga as teachers. Father Casimir until now had come from Muenster for services was now appointed resident pastor and the parish house was erected during the first half 1915

The first mission in the Parish was preached by Father George Scheffold, O.S.B. from July 21 to August 1, 1915. Other missions or retreats at intervals were given by Fathers Rosenthal, O.M.I. Fisher, C.Ss.R., Rembert, Wilfrid, and Celestine.

Father Hyacinth, O. S. B., a brother of Father Casimir, celebrated his first Solemn High Mass June 22, 1916, the feast of Corpus Christi, in the presence of his parents and his sister Sister Jerome O.S.B. Father Casimir was assistant priest, Father Severin Gertken, O.S.B. (now Abbot Severin), who was visiting the colony at the time, was deacon Father Leo subdeacon, and Father Bernard deliver ed the sermon.

In 1919 Father Casimir and the parishioners realizing that their church was too small for the growing population, decided to add a new sanctuary sacristy. Construction was proceeding rapidl and the roof was already on the new section the windows were not yet in when on June 27, black clouds gathered in the west towards evening, and hardly after 10 p.m. a violent electrical storm, accompanied by hail hit the district. Suddenly the bell of the church gave a wailing sound which heard by Fr. Casimir warning him that some thing unusual had happened. Stepping to window he looked into the pitch dark night in direction of the church; a flash of lightning lit up the place, but he saw no church. The following morning revealed the destruction: debris was strewn where the day before the church had stood.

The pioneers of the parish immediately made plans for the erection of a new church, one which ld be more solid than the destroyed frame building. A substantial brick edifice was decided upon, and by the middle of July of the same year $ 9,000 was subscribed ng to contribute $7 000 each. Work on the church started the early part of 1920, and be fore winter set in the building was under roof. In the meantime services were held in the school building. By the middle of February 1921, the beautiful new church, which had more the appear ance of a cathedral than a country church, wa practically finished, except for the two which were completed the following

The first services in the new church were held May 29, 1921, the feast of Corpus Christi. Fa ther Casimir, invited Father Peter to have the honor of celebrating the first Highmass in the new church, and of carrying the Blessed Sacrament in he procession after Mass. In his sermon Father Peter alluded to the times when he held services in the log church, and congratulated the people of the parish on their magnificent spirit of sacrifice in erecting such a splendid edifice.

The dimensions of the church are as follows 52 x 96, height from floor to ceiling, 36 feet, height of the towers including the cross 73 ft. Seating capacity is about 500. A firm at Redcliffe Alta., furnished the outside variegated brick and the inside brick were supplied by the Bruno Inter locking Tile Co. The cost of the erection exceeded $60,000. In 1926 there was a debt of $26,400 which increased in depression years. Father John was able to announce on Christmas, 1945 that, thanks to a pecial debt-reducing drive the entire debt had been wiped out.

The blessing of the beautiful Assumption Church took place on August 15, 1921, the feast of the Assumption, the patronal feast of the parish, by Abbot Michael. Assisted by Fathers Hyacinth and Matthew, he celebrated Holy Mass at 9 a. m. during which five children made their first Holy Communion and 47 their Solemn Communion. At 10 a.m. he blessed the church and then Father Hyacinth, assisted by Fathers Joseph and Fridolin sang a solemn High Mass. Father Casimir directed the choir and Father Peter preached the sermon. Father Abbot addressed the congregation in and English and had much praise for the pas tor and his parishioners who brought such great sacrifices for the glory of God. Confirmation fol lowed during which Mr. Henry Schnitz and Mrs. George Rositch were sponsors.

The following day Mr. and Mrs. Cismowski observed their golden wedding anniversary, at a Mass celebrated by Abbot Michael assisted by their two priest sons. In his address to the jubilarians, abbot mentioned the fact that four of their children had dedicated their lives to God, two is priests and two daughters as nuns, one of

whom, Sr. Hedwig, had died, and the other, Sr Jerome, was present. In their declining years the couple kept house for Father Casimir

Other couples in the parish who lived long enough to observe their golden wedding

Nov 24, 1936, Mr and Mrs Jos Skalicky, on Sept 8, 1943, Mr and Mrs. Henry Schulte on Jan 8 934, also their diamond jubilee, ten years later Mr and Mrs. Henry Therres, on April 7 1940 their diamond jubilee in 950

The imposing high altar was furnished by Messrs Frank Becker and Jacob Schmitz of Milwaukee, Wis. and arrived in Sept 1921 The beautiful statue of the Assumption, donated by good lady of the parish in 1907, had been stored before the storm which destroyed the church, and now was given a place in the new altar Two matching side altars from the same firm were set up in the church the following December

As in other localities of St. Peter's Colony the settlers at Dead Moose Lake were concerned about the proper education of their children both Prior Alfred and Prior Bruno insisted on a thorough Catholic education. With Henry Frank Robert Blume and Henry Frecklage as trustees, a parochial school was opened in the log church on May 8, 1905, and Mr. F. X Stuebe who had teaching experience in the U S was the first giving his services practically gratis A public school, called St Henry, had been erected mile west This was changed into a parish school on Jan. 15, 1908, a unique case in the history of Saskatchewan. Miss Theresa Wiegers taught this school until she joined the convent of Sion in Prince Albert as Sr Herberta The Ursulines began to teach on Jan. 7 1915, in the building erected the year before and called it St Angela School and the St Angela Convent. This school remained operation as a parochial school until March 19 1933, when it became a public school

After having labored in the parish for nearly ten years, Father Casimir was called to Muenster as Prior and Procurator of the Abbey He left the parish on Nov 23 1922 and Father Fridolin was named pastor but his stay was short for on April 30, 1923, he became pastor at Leofeld and Cudworth Father Matthias was appointed in his place The unsavory name of Dead Moose Lake by which the post office was known till 1924 was changed only through his efforts into the appropriate name Marysburg. During the last months of his life he loved much from cancer of the stomach and died after an operation at Macklin, Sask., on June

Father John, who had been in charge during Father Matthias illness, now became pastor. He has done much to further beautify this church especially with numerous paintings by the celebrated artist Berthold Imhoff and with a number of statues, particularly a fine wood carving of St Conrad by an artist in Italy Some of his activities and those of his parishioners are given in the booklet which he published in 1947 In it he states that from September 1903 to Oct., 1947 there were recorded 831 baptisms, 190 deaths, and 180

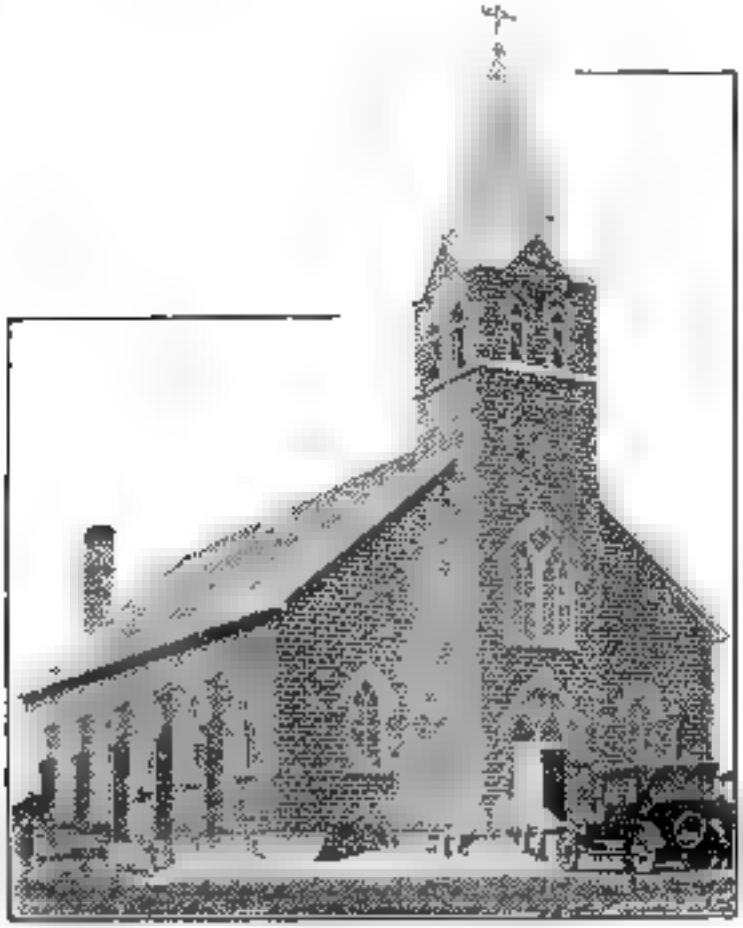
On Aug. 20, 1950, Father John celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination At the Solemn Highmass Fathers Leo Hinz and Leander Dosch both sons of St Peter's Colony assisted as deacon and subdeacon, and Prior Peter preached in English and German. At the parish festival following the divine services, several congratulatory addresses were made by representatives of the Marysburg and Pilger Congregations, and a Studebaker automobile, was presented to the jubilarian. Father Florian acted as chairman. Shortly after the jubilee celebrations on Marysburg and Pilger, Father visited his relatives in his home parish of St Bernard, at St Paul, Minn

Assumption Parish was the first church in Colony to install a public address system. Besides the relics incased in every altar there is a large relic of St Conrad of Parzham, which was sent to Father John from Altoetting, where Brother Conrad died, and a small relic of St Theresa of Lisieux Three choirs are active at present, the men's choir under the direction of Albert Jaeb the junior choir of mixed voices under the direction of Miss Louise Schulte and the children's choir in charge of the Ursuline Nuns, with Louise Schulte as organist for all. Former directors and organists included Frank

X. Strueby, Mother Xavera, Michael Frank and Mrs. Frank. Besides trustees already mentioned, the following have been on the church board: Henry Theves, Mathias Poetz, Henry Schulte, Fred Distel, George Rositch, George Riederer, Lawrence Stroeder, Michael Frank. The present board consists of Max Mueller, Isidore Poetz, Adolph Zintel, Louis Brinkmeier, Paul Baum.

Former parishioners now in religious orders include Mother Catherine Distel, now superior of the Ursulines in Bruno; Mother Agnes Schulte, of St. Louis Convent, Bruno; six daughters of the deceased Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stroeder, members of the Franciscan Convent of St. Joseph, Milwaukee, Wis., two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Stroeder, in the same convent; Sister Mary Alphonse Wiegers, in U. S. Sister Melanie O.S.B., and Sr. Antonia Bolz, O.S.B., Humboldt. Bro. Dominic Distel, O.S.B., at Muenster.

First log church of St. Bernard and school at old Pilger



Church of St. Bernard, Filgar, shortly after completion.

To the zeal of Father Ildephonse, the pastor of Fulda, is to be ascribed the founding of St Bernard's Mission in the district of Pilger, after the mission of the same name west of Humboldt (Dixon) had been abandoned. The first Benedictine to set foot on this locality was Father Bruno when he inspected the land on September 30, 1902. On Jan. 23, 1907 at a meeting presided over by Prior Bruno, in the home of Mr John Lukan, it was decided that a parochial school should be erected on section 36, township 39 range 23. It was to be built of logs and would also serve as a church. The following trustees were elected: Henry Wirtz, Philip Fleschbacker and Joseph Stauber. Logs were cut and hauled that winter and the building was completed during the summer, so that Father Ildephonse was able to celebrate Holy Mass in it on August 4, 1907. A choral Mass was sung, the choir consisting of the Adolph Lange family members of the new mission. Since Father Ildephonse was fully occupied with his own parish and mission Father Bernard, and later Father Boniface [illegible] from Muenster by horse and buggy to attend the [illegible].

When Father Casimir took up his residence at Marysburg in 1915 he was also given charge of St. Bernard's Mission. Soon the congregation decided to build a new church and a building fund was started. A new location on higher ground was selected, the southeast corner of the northwest quarter of section 12, township 40 range 23, a mile and a half north of the log church, and Mr. Joseph Stauber donated 10 acres of his homestead. Building began in the spring of 1918. During July about 75 teams hauled brick and building material from Humboldt, and the same month the seven foot foundation was completed. Mr. Kurt Hempel of Bruno was named contractor for the mason work and bricklaying. The dimensions of the building were 98 x 49. Interlocking tiles formed the walls and estimated cost was about $12,000. In record time the church was completed and the people of Pilger were justly proud of their achievement. Since it has a beautiful location the new church with its stately tower can be seen from a great distance especially since it received a coat of white stucco several years ago.

A memorable event for the people was the blessing of their church on August 2, 1920, by Abbot Michael. He had Holy Mass at 8 a.m. at which 26 children received their first Holy Communion. At 10 a.m. he blessed the church and Solemn Highmass followed. Prior Peter was celebrant, Fr. Casimir deacon and Fr. Walter Reger O.S.B., a member of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., subdeacon. Prior Peter briefly reviewed the history of the Pilger church during his sermon and Abbot Michael congratulated the congregation and their pastor on the great work accomplished. He also explained the importance and significance of the Sacrament of Confirmation before he confirmed a class of 40. After the Te Deum the people went to the old log church and partook of a plentiful dinner which the ladies of the parish had prepared. The receipts from the dinner and the parish festival which followed amounted to [illegible].

A new parish school of tile was erected about 50 yards to the north of the new church and was nearly completed at the time of the blessing of the church. The number of children attending in 1920 was 45; the number of parishioners was 274, consisting of 49 families and 11 single adults.

On May 31 1923, Fr Joseph Leo Mutter, a member of the Congregation of the Precious Blood, Carthagena, Ohio, in the presence of his aged mother and relatives, offered up his first solemn Highmass in St Bernard's Church. He was assisted by Father Matthias as assistant priest, by Father Casimir as deacon, and Father Pius Mutter, a brother of the celebrant, as subdeacon. Father Casimir preached in English and Father Rudolph in German. In 1927 Father Pius Mutter was ordained and also held his first Mass here.

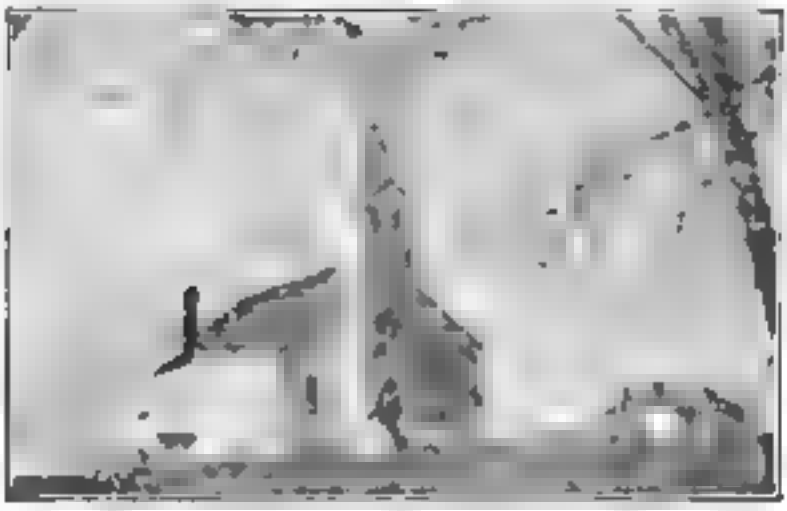
An addition of two rooms to the church was built in 1930, large enough to lodge the pastor on his visits and to serve as office. Father Matthias made use of it the first time in Jan. 1931. Shortly after his death on June 27 1931, Father John was placed in charge of St Bernard's as indicated in the Marysburg annals. He bestowed the same pastoral care as his predecessors and made numerous improvements and alterations including an oil heating system, electric lights and stuccoing the

church

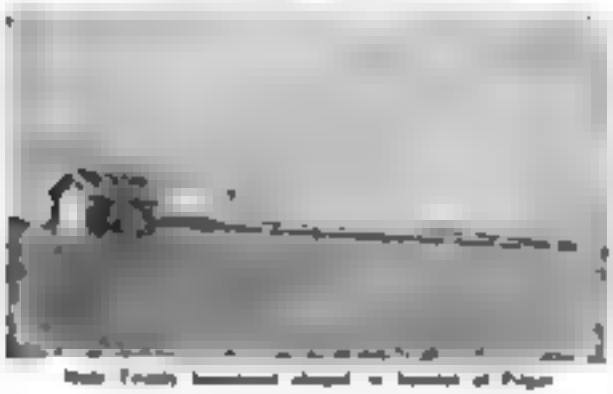
An unusual celebration was held here on June 24, 1944, when Father Mathias Bregenzer, C.Ss.R of Chicago, a brother of Peter Bregenzer and Mrs. Henry Schmidt, observed his 40th ordination anniversary and Mr and Mrs Henry Schmidt marked their 50th wedding anniversary. Father Bregenzer had a solemn High Mass at which the couple renewed their marriage vows and Father Peter preached. Two of Mr and Mrs Schmidt's daughters, Sisters Frances and Veronica, Elizabethan Sisters, also attended Other relations from Pilger include a daughter of the pioneer Mutter family, a daughter of Mr and Mrs Kel and three daughters of the Adam Dobmeier family

ames Kelly died as a novic

St. Bernard's Church has been beautified interiorly and exteriorly and it certainly a credit to the congregation and their pastor, Father John, who structed the main altar and canopy. The parish an energetic choir with Mrs. B Ehalt as organist, succeeding Mrs. B Wehage who devotes her time now mainly to the fine choir at Holy Trinity Chapel in town. The present church board consists of Leo Hueser, Jerome Fitzel, Frank Stapher, Leonard Lukas and Joseph Jurgens, while the following form the committee for the chapel in town: Peter Bregenzer, Peter Lukas, Peter Schmieder, Stephen Pomodli, Jr., and Leander Bruckner



Present church of St. Bernard



New Family Memorial chapel in honor of Pilger

and St. Martin's Mission

On July 25, 1903, Prior Alfred, Fathers Dominic and Peter drove in a heavy wagon to Dead Moose Lake, where Father Peter was left to spend night in a tent. The next morning he was taken by Mr. Peter Funk to William Kretzenbeck's house west of the lake for the first Sunday services in St Joseph's Parish. In the meantime Prior Alfred and Father Dominic, who had arrived at the little log cabin priory at Muenster three days before, proceeded on a faint wagon trail in an easterly direction for a distance of about 12 miles to the home of Mr. Adam Specht, the southwest quarter of section 10, township 39, range 20. The next morning, July 26, each celebrated Mass in what is the parish of Annaheim. Since that day the feast of St. Ann, the mother of the Blessed Virgin, the new parish was called St. Ann. Later the postoffice was changed to Annaheim, "the home of Ann." George Doepker served both Masses on that day. Father Dominic was placed in charge of this parish, the fifth in the Colony.

Present at that first service were Mr. and Mrs. Adam Specht and their five children, and nearly all the following settlers: Anton Evertz, Werner Halbach, Christoph Hamling, Joseph Hoffmann, Emil, Henry and Paul Lachmuth, Joseph Fasching, Philip Winter, August Roenspies, Frank Doepker, Louis Schumacher, Nicholas Kramer, Philip Hoffmann, Peter Kraemer, Ray Lükenhaus, John Fasching, John Halbach, Peter Hoffmann, August Stangel, Mrs. Joseph Hoffmann, Caroline Hoffmann, Ann Lachmuth, Mrs. W. Halbach, Mrs. Hamling and four children, John, Fr. Andrew and Paul Lingnau, Miss Mary Lingnau, Mrs. Kraemer, Mrs. Stangel, John Schultz, Lawrence Halbach, Mrs. Winter and six children, Ben, George and Theodore Doepker and Mrs. Roenspies and children.

The next day Prior Alfred and Father Dominic set out with the same team and wagon for Rostern, where a team of ponies and a buggy were purchased from Mr. A. J. Adamson. Father Dominic was very pleased at having acquired such a fast pair of horses. A good team of horses was for the missionary in the early days not only a pleasure and a blessing, but a necessity, since he had to cover great distances.

On August 13, 1903, Father Dominic took up residence in Annaheim, and until the completion of the log church, stayed with the Werner Halbach family and conducted services there. On Aug. 26, 1903, the southwest quarter of section [illegible] ship 39, range 20, was selected as his homestead and as church site. On August 29 the four months old child of Adam Faul died and was buried here. This was the first funeral in the new parish. On Sept. 7, 1903, Frank Schiltz, Andrew Stangel and Werner Halbach started work on the church and dwelling for the pastor. The work went slowly since the settlers had more than enough to do to provide for themselves the barest necessities before winter. Father Dominic took a hand in its construction. There was great joy when the holy Mass was offered the first time in the new log church on Nov. 15, 1903. The dimensions were 16 x 44: one part was for the church and another part, closed off by a partition, was the pastor's residence. Father Dominic moved into this unusual parish house on Dec. 3, and his sister Frances was his first housekeeper. (She married Mr. Arnold Dauk later.) On the same day the first wedding was celebrated in the church, the couple being Raymond Lükenhaus and Caroline Hoffmann. The first baptism was conferred Christmas day on Philip Ernest George Winter, the sponsors being George Doepker and Anna Lachmuth. On the same day Father Dominic also sang the Highmass, and because no organ was available, the choir sang to the accompaniment of a guitar.

Father Dominic had the reputation of being a good bookkeeper and mathematician. Making this knowledge, he calculated it would be easier for the pioneers to make their purchases in Melfort which was only about 38 miles — as the bird flies — to the south of Annaheim while Rosthern was 95. His figures impressed Mr. Paul Lach and on Oct. 5, early in the morning, the two set out for Melfort. The southern shore of Lake Lenore where Bernard Gerwing had his homestead was easily reached. They then went along the east shore of the lake in a northerly direction, but

First church at Assiniboia

Old St. Ann church at Assiniboia. Fr. Decorbis in centre with group of parishioners

soon encountered so much water-soaked, muddy ground and marshes covered with jungle-like bushes, that they became lost. It began to rain and rained without ceasing, to add to their misery night closed in on them. Wet to the skin, cold and hungry, they had to halt and spend the night in the open. The horses also were tired and hungry. It was the most uncomfortable night Father Dominic ever spent. They decided to give up trying to find a way to Melfort, and when morning dawned they tried to find their way home. It was still raining, and finally at 10 p.m. they reached the house of Bernard Gerwing, where they found shelter, food and a warm stove to dry their clothes.

The first trustees of the Annaheim parish were Frank Doepker, Emil Lachnauth, Philip Winter and John Lingnau. During the summer of 1904 a two storey parish house, 18x26, was erected with lumber brought from Rosthern, the interior being completed the next year. To accomodate the settlers who were coming into the parish, a 6 x 20 frame addition to the church was built 1906. The parishioners wanted a new church but the crops of 1907 and 1908 were poor. However in the summer of 1908 a loan at a reasonable rate of interest was obtained, and without delay the parishioners began to build a new church large enough to fulfill all requirements and beautiful enough to be a credit to Annaheim. During March, 1909 the lumber arrived at the station at St. Gregor and was brought to Annaheim. The contract for laying the foundation was let to Mr. John T. Schmitz, and by June 24 the building was far enough advanced so that the cornerstone could be blessed by Prior Bruno. The cost of the foundation was $324, and the contract for the superstructure was let to Messrs. Samuel Johnston and Michael Brunn for $1574. The dimensions were 44 x 102, with a tower 108 ft. Father Hugo Toth O.S.B. of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn. supervised the building which was of Gothic design.

By Oct. 24, 1909, the new church was completed and divine service was held for the first time in it by Father Peter, since Father Dominic was absent for medical treatment. The three bells for the new church were blessed on August 31, 1909, by Bishop Pascal, assisted by Prior Bruno, Father Bernard and Father D. Camanbe, and were named St. Ann, Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. After the blessing they were placed in the tower and rung for the Angelus that evening. The solemn dedication of the church took place on June 19, 1910, with Bishop Pascal officiating. Father Dominic celebrated Highmass at which a group of children received their first Holy Communion and in the afternoon solemn Vespers were sung after which 69 children were confirmed.

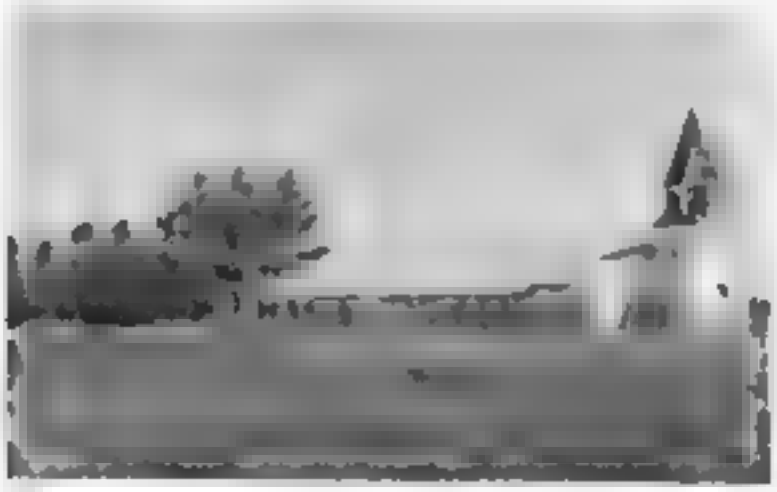
On the preceding day the Bishop came from Lake Lenore and was to be met by 14 horsemen a short distance from Annaheim, and to be conducted to the church, where the whole congregation was awaiting him. It was a very warm day. About half way between Lake Lenore and Annaheim a strange thing happened. It had all the appearance of a hold-up. A tall man rushed out of the bush through which the road passed and stopped the buggy in which the Bishop, and Fathers Vincent Shifferer, Peter and Dominic were riding. The scare, however, was only momentary and quickly changed to pleasure. The man was Mr. John Korte a member of the parish, who had erected a bower in the bush. In it was a chair for the Bishop and some cool beer to quench the travellers' thirst. This friendly gesture delighted the Bishop im-

On October 1, 1904, the St. Joseph's Society for men was established and Frank Schiltz was chosen president. The St. Ann's Christian Mothers Confraternity was founded on July 26, 1905, with Mrs. Pauline Lachnauth as president and in May 1908 St. Rose's Sodality for young ladies was established with Miss Appolonia Sasges as president. At this time the parish had 70 families and 56 single adults.

A feast of great joy for the pastor and parishioners was celebrated on July 2, 1911 when Father Martin Hoffmann, O.S.B., of the Abbey of Mt. Angel, Oregon, a brother of Father Dominic, offered his first solemn High Mass. The church was specially decorated for the occasion. Fr. Dominic was the assistant priest and preached, Fathers Cassian and Joseph were deacon and subdeacon.

During a violent thunderstorm on July 10, 1916, the tower of the church was struck by lightning igniting the belfry. Luckily the fire was noticed at once and firefighters, among them Jos. Aschenbrenner, Louis Schober and Jos. Langen, extinguished the flames, and the church was saved.

Father Dominic was pastor of Annaheim almost 5 years, when he was transfered to Watson



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and Fr. Bernard succeeded him in June 19 8. The St. Peter s Bote of June 5, 1918, has the following comment on the transfer "Annaheim, as well as Lake Lenore developed under Fr. Dominic's direction into strong, well disciplined congregations able to take their place alongside the other parishes of St. Peter's Colony. Annaheim has a splendid church, a fine parish house and other necessary buildings, all equipped with electric lights. Also St. Anthony's Parish at Lake Lenore is in fine condition, both spiritually and financially, and there the people hope to erect a big church in the not too distant future."

The first Holy Mass was celebrated at Lake Lenore on May 29, 1904 by Father Dominic and from that date on he drove with his ponies to that mission every second Sunday of the month. The first mission at both places was conducted by Fathers William Brabender O.M.I. and Paul Hilland O.M.I., at Annaheim, Nov. 8-14, 1908, and at Lake Lenore Nov. 15-21. Holy Mass at Lake Lenore was at first celebrated in Bernard Gerwing's house, but by Christmas, 1904, a church 24 x 40 with a choir loft, was completed. The site section 4, township 40, range 21. By the spring of 1906 a parish house, 18 x 24 and 14 ft. high was also completed. The church had to be enlarged, and a sacristy, sanctuary and tower were added. Drop siding nailed to the log building made the church look better and easier to heat.

Father Bernard continued to guide St. Ann's Parish and the mission at Lake Lenore in the same spirit as his predecessor. He was pastor at Annaheim four years and on Nov. 12, 1922 was appointed first resident pastor of St. Anthony's Parish at Lake Lenore. Here under his supervision the present brick church and school were built in 1921 and 1922. As his successor at St. Ann's Parish, Abbot Michael named Father Joseph Wuchel and assigned to him also mission of St. Gregor.

Father Joseph was in charge of St. Ann's hardly four months when the parish was visited by a great misfortune. On March 2, 1923, after the Stations of the Cross, between four and five p.m. smoke was seen rising from the roof near the chimney close to the winter chapel attached to the Church. There was no chance to save anything. Within a short time the entire church was reduced to ashes, and the parish house was badly scorched. The loss was well over $40,000, and the insurance only $10,000. The parish hall, which had been erected by Father Bernard, was now used for divine services, but was much too small to

The heavy blow suffered by the parishioners was lightened by a great feast on June 17, 1923 when Father Theodore Doepker, a son of the parish, a member of St. Peter's Abbey of Muenster and the first Benedictine from St. Peter's Colony, celebrated his first solemn Highmass. In the company of Abbot Michael, he was met by a group of horsemen and conducted to the parish house June 16. An altar was erected in the open amid a number of lovely trees and shrubs. At 10:00 on June 17 Fr. Theodore was led in procession to the place prepared for the holy sacrifice. The brass band played and about two thousand people had assembled from far and near. Father Theodor had Father Peter as assistant priest. Father Dominic as deacon and Father Wilfrid as subdeacon and Abbot Michael preached. The blessing of a new bell donated by the Lingoans, had to be postponed on account of a very heavy rain.

After the disaster of March 2, the congregation determined to erect a new church. It was to be a temporary but solid concrete basement church. Excavation started on July 23. The dimensions were 126 x 42 with the transept measuring 45 x 62. Despite pressing harvest work, 18 to 24 men of the parish assisted every day in pouring the concrete for the walls. To complete them to a height of 14 feet 1755 bags of cement, 340 loads of sand and gravel and 40 loads of stones were used, as well as the stones from the foundation of the old frame church. The interior and exterior of the basement church were completed in 1924, and on Sept. 14 Abbot Michael blessed it. Next day funeral services were held for Mrs. John Reiter. She had been a very active member of the Christian Mothers and died after two days' illness at the age of 65.

A new parish house was erected under Father Joseph's direction in 1926. Next year the Ursuline Nuns of Bruno took charge of the Laurier School. The church, and the former parish house was renovated and given to the Sisters for a home. Mr. Anton Stadelman was the contractor for both the basement church and parish house at Annaheim.

Former St. Martin Church

Present Church of St. Martin

A very successful mission was preached from July 25 to Aug. 1, 1926, by Fr Cyril Mohr. C.P. On June 3, 1928, Abbot Severin conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on 45 children, who in the morning had made their Solemn Communion. On the same occasion the Ordinary conducted the canonical visitation of the parish and visited the cemetery where he said the prescribed prayers for the deceased of the parish.

On July 26, 1926, St. Ann's Parish celebrated the silver jubilee of its founding. Abbot Severin celebrated Pontifical Highmass with Father Joseph as assistant priest, Fathers Casimir and Marcellus as deacons of honor, Fathers Bernard as deacon of the Mass and Matthias as subdeacon. Father Dominic delivered the sermon in which he reviewed the history of the parish and showed how God blessed the parishioners during the twenty five years.

Another feast in which the parish of Annaheim shared was the silver jubilee of Father Joseph's ordination at which Abbot Severin preached. The next eleven years of Father Joseph's life were years of suffering. He died April 25, 1947. During most of these years he had help on Sundays from Muenster. Fathers Aloysius, William, Philip, and Florian assisting at various times. After his death Father Aloysius was appointed administrator until Father Matthew was named pastor by Abbot [illegible] who also assigned St. Martin's Mission to him.

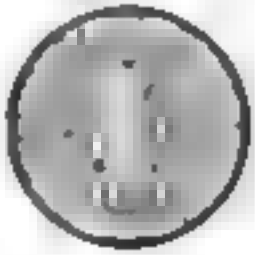
The second son of St. Ann's Parish to be raised to the priesthood, Father Leander Dosch, O.S.B., of St. Peter's Abbey, celebrated his first solemn Highmass on Sunday, June 11, 1950, with Father Matthew, as assistant priest, and Fathers Leo and William deacon and subdeacon. Abbot Severin preached, extolling the great powers of a priest and God's mercy to His children.

In September 1952 Father Matthew was appointed pastor of St. Boniface Parish at Leofeld and of the mission of the Holy Family, and Father Paul was named pastor of Annaheim and the [illegible] of St. Martin. During his stay at Annaheim Father Matthew inaugurated the electrification of most farms in the parish, later expanding that great improvement in other areas. This was the first large rural electrification project in Saskatchewan and has been followed in other districts. To show their appreciation for his efforts people of the parish and neighboring places donated a car to him shortly after his transfer to St. Boniface Parish.

The following young ladies of the parish of St. Ann dedicated their lives to the service of God: Mother Aloysia Dauk, Mother Carola Halbuch, Sister Imelda Doerfler and Sr. Bernarda Mueller, Ursulines at Bruno; Sr. Anna Marie Lange, O.S.U. of Humboldt; St. Mathilda Dauk, Sr. Mary Verda [illegible]k, Sr. Mary Oliva Hagerty, Sr. Mary Anatole Kennedy, Sisters of the Missions, Regina. Brothers Bernard and Aloysius Lange are at the Abbey.

In July 1952 Father Celestine Kapsner, O.S.B., of St. John's Abbey, preached a successful liturgical mission here and at St. Martin. Father Martin O.F.M., also held a mission several years before.

Father Dominic visited the district wherein the church of St. Martin now stands during the summer of 1905 offering the first Holy Mass there and Fr. Chrysostom visited the sparsely populated district at intervals during the following years. A log church was built by the settlers and blessed on June 20, 1910 by Bishop Pascal who also confirmed a number of settlers. When Fr. Chrysostom had to undergo an operation in 1939 the [illegible] was attended by the pastor of Engelfeld. Many a time Father Matthew, while pastor of Engelfeld, had some trying experiences during the winter, in making his visits on horseback. The district is somewhat low and the snow drifts were sometimes mountainous. From Annaheim there is now a fairly good road straight east to the [illegible] der the direction of Father Matthew, a church which is credit to the rather small congregation of St. Martin.



Ancient Church of St. Anthony

[illegible] and [illegible]

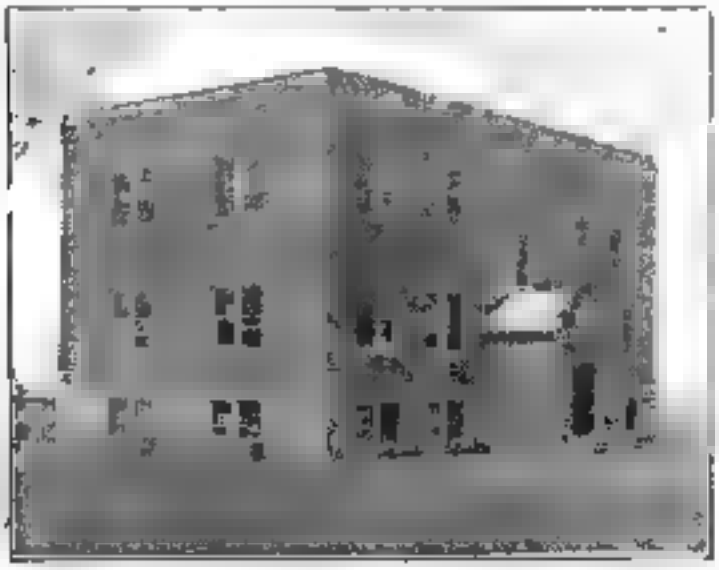
By the end of June 1920 the new C.N.R. line from Humboldt to Melfort was constructed through St. Anthony's parish. The site for the station and new town of Lake Lenore was about a mile south of the church which had been erected in 1904. On the townsite a number of business places, including a bank and an elevator, had been built even before the railroad reached it. The joy of the people was great when their comparative isolation ended and it was but natural that they longed for a new church and school, large enough to accommodate the increasing population. A meeting of the parishioners was held on October 3, 1920 but no definite decision was reached. At another meeting Nov. 21, 1920, it was decided to build a new church and school near the station. At a meeting on Feb. 20, 1921 a building committee was chosen to assist Father Bernard, consisting of Nicholas Scholer, Nicholas Berscheid, John Gerwing, Fred Ruedeen and the trustees of the parish. By the end of March sand and gravel was already being hauled to the site chosen in the north section of the town, and in July the concrete for the basement of the church and school had been poured. Mr. Anton Stadelman secured the contract for the construction of both buildings.

The cornerstone laying for each of the buildings occurred on Aug. 21, 1921. Abbot Michael celebrated pontifical Mass in the old church with Prior Peter and Father Casimir assisting, and Prior Peter briefly explained the ceremonies of blessing and laying the cornerstone. After Mass the clergy and the people marched in procession to the site of the new church and school. Father Bernard was master of ceremonies and Fathers Peter, Casimir and Andrew assisted the Abbot. A prayer was recited before the cross which was erected at the place where the altar in the church was to stand. After the cornerstone, which is a symbol of Christ, was laid, the walls were sprinkled with holy water. After the laying of the cornerstone for the school the Abbot preached, pointing out the absolute necessity of having a good Catholic school. Only by means of a thorough Catholic education can good Catholics be formed, he said, and without a good school the erection of a church is almost useless. He congratulated the people of Lake Lenore and their pastor for providing not only a church but also a school.

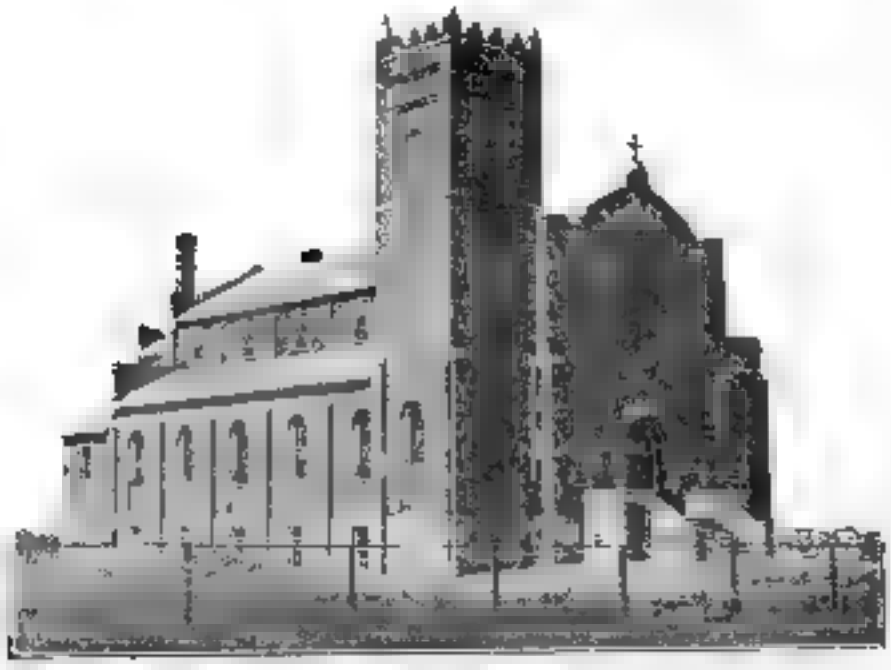
The St. Peter's Bote, Aug. 25, 1921 reported that St. Anthony of Padua was chosen patron of [illegible] church on the day of the first Holy Mass in the district by Father Dominic on May 29, 1904 at the home of Mr. Bernard Gerwing. At a meeting on October 23, 1904, the site of the church was chosen. Bernard Gerwing and Peter Wolsfeld were each willing to donate five acres of land. At the first service a collection was taken up by Father Dominic as the start of a building fund, and it amounted to $167. Friends from Pierz, Minn., also contributed, so that half the expenses of building were paid, and all work was done gratis. Mr. Michael Hoffmann superintended the building.

When Father Dominic was absent at the beginning of 1905, Father Chrysostom looked after the mission for two months, besides attending Dead Moose Lake and Fulda. The first Highmass at Lake Lenore was celebrated on March 19, 1905. Mr. Hoffmann and his sons built the first altar and Mr. Louis Walter, an expert joiner, built the tabernacle. On May 14, 1905, the members of the Mission decided to build a parish house, and it was finished in the spring of 1906. The debt [illegible] church on July 14, 1905, amounted to $100. A parish festival on Dominion Day, 1906, netted $67. Mr. Math. Butala, who arrived in 1905, brought a vestment, a monstrance, a holy water font and a sprinkler. Up to that time the priest used a twig from a tree or an herb from the field for the Asperges.

On Aug. 23, 1905, Bishop Pascal paid his first visit to Lake Lenore. He blessed the church, confirmed a group of young people, and preached in English. Prior Alfred spoke in German. After having blessed several other churches and confirmed many young people, he returned to Lake Lenore in August 1906, on this occasion Joseph Goetz and Fred Wm. Gerwing, two expert boatmen, took him across the lake to St. Brieux. They started the trip in the morning and by evening



St. Anthony School, Lake Lenore



Present Church of St. Anthony, Lake Lenore

had landed safely in the 'harbor' of St. Breux

The Bishop visited Lake Lenore again on June 6, 1910, and remained until June 18. Father Dominic brought him in his buggy, accompanied by Father Vincent Schiffrer, O.S.B., of St. John's Abbey, and Father Peter of Muenster. Two miles from the church 26 horsemen and a brass band of 12 musicians met the distinguished visitor and escorted him to the church. Trees were "planted" along the road and arches erected. When the Bishop arrived at the Church he imparted his blessing to the people who had gathered to meet him. Next day Father Dominic celebrated High Mass during which six children received their first Holy Communion. In the afternoon Pontifical Vespers were sung, the Bishop confirmed 25 children, and gave a very instructive address. Bishop Pascal visited Lake Lenore for the last time on August 19, 1916, and again administered the sacrament of

Father Dominic was pastor of St. Anthony's Mission from the beginning until June 4, 1918, when he was appointed pastor of Watson. On several occasions during his absence, services were conducted by Fathers Chrysostom, Boniface, Casimir, Bernard, Hugo Tell, Peter Fischer and Prior Peter. Until 1917 services were held every second Sunday, and then, at least in the summer, every Sunday. By 1919 the Catholic population of the parish was 489, so that it was clear that a new church and school were necessary. It was decided to erect both on the northeast quarter of section 32, township 39, range 21, on the five acres which Bernard Gerwing had donated. The dimensions of the new church were 30 x 50 with a full basement 12 ft. high. The interior of the church from floor to ceiling was 34 ft. The dimensions of the two storey school with full basement was 66 x 36

In the issue of Oct. 3, 1924, the St. Peter's Note published the following names of the pioneers who attended the first Holy Mass on May 25, 1903, in the home of Bernard Gerwing: Peter Weiland, Peter Schuler, Frank J. Suchy, Jas. Weiland, Nick Scheuneman, Edw. J. Linda, Joseph, Anthony, Henry, Bernard, Agnes, Elizabeth, Susan and John Gerwing, Nick Hoffmann, Nick Kolling, Hy. Weiland, Xavier Stelzer, Mich. Kohlbeck, John Stelzer, Nick. Braun, Theresa and Mary Schiltz, Anna and Mrs. Andr. Stangel, Peter and Johanna Doyscher, Henry, Frances, Rose and Michael Hoffmann, Marg. and Raymond Suchy, Herm. Schmidt, Peter Wolsfeld, Frank, Anthony, Anna and F. P. Revering.

On April 28, 1922, the large new school was opened with an enrollment of over 100 children in the two class rooms. Four Sisters from Bruno were placed in charge of the school, the two teachers being Mother Clara and Sister Magdalene. The other two were Sister Mechtild and Sister Crescentia, the latter in charge of the kitchen. Another room was opened in Sept. 1922, and later, a fourth when the number of pupils reached over 160 in grades one to eight. Since it was a parochial school pupils from the entire parish were enrolled. Owing to special circumstances, the school was converted into a public school, in 1930, but since 1935 the Sisters are again teaching there.

By the middle of July 1922, the cement floor in the basement of the new church was finished and from then until the blessing of the church, Holy Mass was celebrated there. By this time, too, the excavation for the new parish house was

Father Bernard took up residence in the parish on Nov. 17 and on the following Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the church was dedicated. Abbot Michael arrived with Father Dominic shortly before 10 a. m. and was conducted in procession by Father Bernard and the servers into the church. The choir sang "Ecce sacerdos magnus" which was specially composed for this occasion. After the dedication Father Bernard celebrated Highmass, and Father Dominic, the founder of the parish, preached. After Mass Abbot Michael addressed the congregation and congratulated them, reminding that "the churches of St. Peter's Colony must be counted among the most beautiful in all Western Canada." He also spoke of his recent visit to Rome, and imparted the Apostolic Benediction.

By Nov., 1923 the new parish house, likewise a brick building, erected by Mr. Stadelman [illegible]leted and Father Bernard moved into it.

The first solemn Highmass of Rev. Louis Gwynn took place on August 3, 1924. He had been ordained by Bishop Pendbotome, with Father Wilfrid at Tramping Lake. He was a secular priest who had been incardinated in the Abbey Nullius of

Church of St. James Mission

Muenster by Abbot Michael. His assistants were Fathers Cosmas and Wilfrid and Bernard who delivered the sermon. Abbot Michael was also present with Frater Francis, the present pastor of Lake Lenore.

Father Bernard, who in the space of three years had directed the building of the beautiful church, school and parish house, was transferred to St Benedict in the summer of 1924, and Father Rudolph succeeded him. A farewell celebration was held on August 20. The financial report at the time showed that the three new buildings, together with three acres of land, cost about $64 000, and that there was a debt of about $38,000 which was paid when economic conditions improved.

The lawn, shrubs and trees around the rectory and the school grounds, are the fruit of Father Rudolph's personal labors. Another achievement in connection with the church must be cited, the purchase and importation of four church bells from Germany. These were blessed by Right Rev. Severin Gerrken on Sunday, Nov. 9, 1930. Fr Rudolph was justly proud of these bells and whenever distinguished visitors arrived he delighted in ringing them, and was highly pleased when they admired

On June 23, 1929, he had the happiness of observing the silver jubilee of his ordination, and his parish shared his joy. He celebrated a solemn High Mass at 10:00 a.m., with Fathers Dominic as deacon and Marcellus as subdeacon, and Abbot Severin delivered the festal sermon. After the services there followed a banquet prepared by the parishioners, and many gifts were presented including some from former parishioners at St. Benedict. The bands from Lake Lenore and St. Benedict provided music, and a number of his confreres were present. Shortly after the celebration Father Abbot permitted Father Rudolph, who perhaps more than any of the other Fathers bore the hardships of the pioneer days, to take a well deserved vacation in the land of his birth. It was during this visit that he secured the bells.

The Volksverein of St. Peter's Colony held its District Convention at Lake Lenore on July 8-9, 1925. On the first day Father Rudolph celebrated a solemn Highmass and Prior Peter delivered the sermon; on the second day Abbot Michael celebrated Pontifical Highmass, with Prior Peter as assistant priest, Fathers Joseph Sittenauer and Matthias as deacons of honor. Fathers Fridolin and Marcellus deacon and subdeacon of the Mass. In the afternoon, Fathers Aug. Kierdorf, O.M.I., and Joseph Sittenauer, O.S.B., gave addresses in which they pointed out the aims and purposes of the

During an amateur talent broadcast over the CKBI radio station at Prince Albert in the evening of Oct 14, 1941, Mr George Gerwing, pioneer postmaster of Lake Lenore, gave the following information: "The government official who surveyed this part of Saskatchewan had a daughter by the name of Lenore. When he came to the lake which extended from township 39 almost to township 43, and nearly 18 miles long, he named it Lenore Lake. When this community received its first post office in 1904, it was also called Lenore Lake but in September 1939, the name was changed to Lake Lenore as it was then commonly called. The village is situated on the Hoenboldt - Melfort C. N. R. line in the centre of a very progressive farming community. The railroad was built in 1920, and until that time the farmers had to haul their grain to the elevators at Hoenboldt or Muenster some 18 to 20 miles. The farmers of the surrounding district are mostly Canadian born, their parents, who are the real pioneers, having come here chiefly from the United States. The village itself, with a population of 300, has five elevators, with a capacity of 426,000 bushels. We have a bank, the bank of Montreal, with a staff of three, one hotel and beer parlor, two general stores, one grocery store and meat market, two hardware stores, a drug store, pool and billiard hall, telephone exchange with 24 hour service, four oil companies, two garages, blacksmith shop, lumber yard, six machine [illegible] and a beauty parlor. The surrounding country is specially adapted to grain and mixed

Livestock raising is a profitable source of income for the farmers, as there were an average of 70 hogs and 15 head of cattle shipped from this station weekly during the last twelve months. Mr. Gerwing also mentioned that 25 young men from the district had enlisted in the various branches of the armed forces of Canada. The Lake north of the village, he stated, has three kinds of fish

In 1933 Father Rudolph founded the Mission of St James on the northeast corner of section 25, township 39, range 20, about 10 miles east of Lake Lenore. Holy [illegible] for the first time in a granary on March 25, 1933 and a second time on the following April 5. A new wooden building intended as a hall was completed and used as the first church. The first funeral in the Mission was held on March 23, 1934 when Carl Schreiner was interred in the new cemetery. Though he was quite busy with St Anthony's Parish, Fr Rudolph also attended the mission of St James The name was chosen to honor Abbot Severin whose baptismal name is James

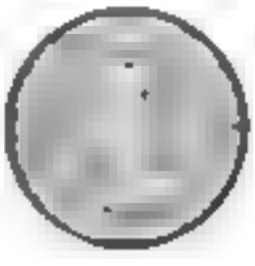
In 1950 a new frame church was erected in the Mission under the supervision of Father Francis It measures 36 x 80, and has a tower modeled on the Spanish Mission style. The solemn blessing took place on September 9, 1951 with Abbot Severin officiating. On the same occasion he confirmed 36 boys and 27 girls, and also erected the stations of the cross. Father Florian celebrated the Highmass with Father Leo as deacon and Father Albert as subdeacon. There are 350 souls in the parish, and about 95 children in the three schools within its boundaries

When Father Rudolph was called to his eternal reward on Aug. 25, 1942, Abbot Severin appointed Father Francis as the new pastor of St Anthony's Parish and St James' Mission. He repaid the debt of the former parish had the interior of the church painted in 1944, and a new heating system installed In 1947 new pews were installed and also a marble altar and communion [illegible]

The silver jubilee of erection of the new church was celebrated on December 7 and 8, 1947 Father Francis had the solemn Highmass with Fr Wilfrid as deacon, and Father William as subdeacon. Present in the sanctuary were Abbot Severin who preached the sermon, and Father Dominic In the afternoon His Lordship confirmed 40 boys and girls and two adults. The choir for the services was directed by the organist, Mr Alphonse Ger[illegible]

[illegible]ake Lenore was privileged to partake in two other happy events. The one was the first solemn Highmass of Father William Gehlen, O. S. B., a son of the parish, celebrated on July 21 1937. with Father Norbert as deacon and Father Ed[illegible] subdeacon. Father Rudolph was the assistant priest, and Abbot Severin delivered the sermon The other was the silver jubilee of the priesthood of Fr Francis Aug. 2 1950 Since he had decided to celebrate it in his home parish in Stillwater Minn in the presence of his mother and relatives, the parishioners of St Anthony and St James prepared a program for him instead. It was held on the north side of the school and and consisted of [illegible] musical selections and the presentation of gifts. About 700 people were present among them three other jubilarians, Fathers Paul, Leonard John, and Prior Peter All were called upon to give short addresses. Father Francis expressed his sur[illegible] parishioners had in store for him. He certainly appreciated the spirit of cooperation and cordiality in his congregation

Former members of St Anthony's Parish now in religious communities are the following. Sister Canisia Pfefferle. O.S.E., Sister Mary Herman Michels. O.S.U Sister Eleanore Stroeder O.S.U Frater Daniel Gerwing and Frater Anselm Gerwing. both members of the Order of St. Benedict expect to be ordained to the priesthood in a few [illegible] Sister Audry Stolte. O.S.U., was formerly a parishioner of St James' Mission



[illegible]

[illegible]

Church of the Guardian Angels and Rectory, Ingolfield

Former Sacred Heart Church, Separate School and Rectory, Wilton

[illegible]

Prior Alfred Mayer, visited the settlers in person whenever possible and selected places most convenient and centrally located for establishing mission posts and future parishes. The fathers [illegible] charge followed his example and at his bidding visited the scattered settlers, encouraging them and bringing them the consolations of the Church.

On August 1, 1903, Prior Alfred sent Father Peter, with Mr. F. J. Lange, president of the Catholic Settlement Society, to the eastern part of St. Peter's Colony. There on Sunday, August 2, 1903, he celebrated the first Holy Mass in the tent of Mr. Frank Kintz on the northwest quarter of section 20, township 36, range 19, now part of the Parish of the Holy Guardian Angels of Engelfeld. Father Peter's report so impressed Prior Alfred that he visited the same territory with Mr. Lange, and on August 16, also a Sunday, he celebrated Holy Mass in the house of Peter Heilmann on the southwest quarter of section 28, township 37, range 9, approximately five miles north of the present town of Watson. This was the first time Holy Mass was celebrated in the district which now lies within the Parish of the Sacred Heart, Watson. On his second visit to the eastern part of the Colony, Father Peter said Holy Mass on Sunday, August 30, 1903. He had been instructed by Prior Alfred to dedicate the mission (in the future parish [illegible]feld) to the Holy Guardian Angels. August [illegible] happened to be the Sunday on which the Benedictine Order that year celebrated the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels, the patrons of the Benedictines of the American-Cassinese Congregation. This feast, as in some countries of Europe to this day, used to be celebrated on the Sunday nearest to September 1. Since 1915, however, the Benedictine Order, following the practice of the universal Church, celebrates it on October 2.

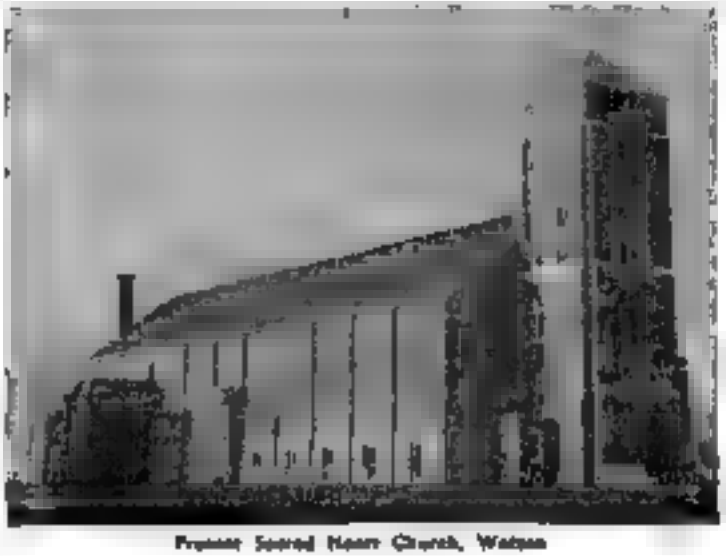
Engelfeld is a German name meaning "Angel-Field." This name was chosen also to honor a man who aided the Canadian Benedictines so much in the pioneer days, Abbot Peter Engel of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota.

When Prior Alfred and F. J. Lange visited this eastern part of the Colony the first time, they arrived late in the evening of August 15, 1903, at the log cabin of John Bettin and Paul Wacholtz. Nobody was home, and the door was locked, but "necessity knows no law" and the two visitors forced their way into the house and went to sleep [illegible] unhitching their horses and feeding them. During the night John Bettin returned and, noticing that the cabin was occupied, cried out, "Who is here?" Two voices at once replied: "Father Alfred! Mr. Lange!" Since our pioneers, like the first Christians, "had all things [illegible] (Acts 2, 44), there was no forcible [illegible] rather much joy and gladness. Next morning, as already mentioned, Prior Alfred said the first Holy Mass in what is now the Sacred Heart Parish of [illegible].

Father Peter spent the night in the same log [illegible]. November 21, 1903, after a missionary experience of which he still has a vivid remembrance. He left Muenster on Saturday morning with a team of horses that had made a tiresome trip from Rosthern the day before. Although there was a [illegible] the ground, he had to use the democrat wagon, for no sleigh was on hand. When he reached a dilapidated stable on the east bank of a creek a few miles southeast of the present town of St. Gregor (about 15 miles from Muenster), he stopped, fed his team, made a fire, thawed out the [illegible] of bread he had in the pocket of his fur coat and ate his dinner. Then he continued his trip. He had travelled about 25 miles when dark [illegible] set in. Having reached section 4, township 37, range 19, he saw a shack on Mr. Nordick's homestead and here he intended to stop for the [illegible]. But the door was nailed shut, and there [illegible] window with a heavy heart he had to continue his trip. He reached the log cabin of Thomas Graf where on August 30 and several times afterwards he had said Holy Mass, and here he decided to [illegible].

But again nobody was at home. Should he break in or proceed to the home of John Bettin and Paul Wacholtz, which could not be far [illegible]? There was no road, and if there had been a trail it was obliterated by the snow. Settler's homes were

Basement Church at Watson



Present Sacred Heart Church, Watson

not easy to find even in daylight, and now it was [illegible]. After covering a mile or two he stopped his team and yelled as loud as he could. The only response was the howl of a coyote. On he went the dark and again after a mile he used his vocal cords. His shouts were heard by John Bettin, who signalled with a lantern, and guided by the light, he reached his destination safely. During the night blizzard arose, adding to the snow already the ground. Amid wind and blowing snow Father Peter was conducted the next morning to the log house of Valentine Loeb on section 24, township 37 range 9, where he said Holy Mass and preached on the end of the world and the Last Judgement for it was the last Sunday after Pentecost. Because of the stormy weather, only a few people were present. Snow was melted to serve as water for the Lavabo at Mass, and during the Mass snow on the sod roof began to melt and trickle down on the altar, which was prepared on a table. Confessions were heard on a wooden box, the best seat available. On October 1, 1903 Father Peter baptized Louis Frank Auchstaetter, the infant son of Jacob Auchstaetter, at his homestead on section 30, township 35, range 18.

So much snow fell during the following winter that by March, 1904, it was practically impossible for a team to make the trip from Muenster to the Quill Lake plains, but in May Father Peter spent a whole week in the district, saying Mass in a number of homes. On May 14 he baptized Francis Sylvester Kolling, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Kolling, who lived on the southeast quarter of section 18, township 36, range 19. On May 17 he crossed the Iron Spring Creek on a raft and said Mass in the house of Frank Vossen. The large amount of water from the melting snow made the creek resemble a river. Wading in ice-cold water up to his chest, Frank Vossen pulled the raft with the priest and the altar utensils across the creek by means of a long rope. On May 18 Father Peter said Holy Mass in the house of Anton Bartsch and baptised his daughter Regina, who is now Sister Cecilia, an Ursuline nun of Bruno. On May 19 he received Mrs. Anton Hufnagel into the Church. Her sponsors at the conditional baptism were Regina Klotz and Joseph Vossen. The services and baptism took place on Mr. Joseph Hufnagel's homestead on section 6, township 38, range 18. The baby Francis Sylvester Kolling died a few days after baptism and was buried on May 21, 1904, this being the first burial in the district.

From July 3 to October 8 Father Matthias Steger, O.S.B., attended the Catholic settlers in this district. On August 15, 1904, he blessed the marriage of John Sommer and Mary Langheim, the first marriage in the eastern part of St. Peter's Colony. Father Peter again took charge from October 8 until Prior Alfred appointed Father Benedict Steigenberger, O.S.B., to that post. Father Benedict took up his residence in a small log cabin on Jacob Spring's farm. Spring's house, a separate building with two comparatively large rooms, served as a place of worship on Sundays, and in this house on Christmas Day, 1904, Father Peter celebrated the first Highmass within the future parish of

Two days after the arrival of Father Benedict at a meeting of the Catholic settlers, the following trustees were elected for the Watson parish: Joseph Ackermann, Peter Bartsch, Adam Fuerstenberg, John Sommer and John Wilkes. At a meeting on February 19, 1906, at which Prior Alfred presided, it was decided that the district be divided into two parishes, the one for Watson to be called the Sacred Heart Parish, and the other the Engelfeld Parish. It was further decided that a church was to be erected as soon as possible in or near the rising town of Watson. (The Canadian National Railroad was under construction in 1904, and the railway company decided to honor Senator Watson by naming the new town after him. For the congregation of the Holy Guardian Angels' Parish the following trustees were elected at the same meeting: Henry Nordick, John Pihm and John Bettin.

At Engelfeld under Father Benedict's direction a log church 20 x 30 feet with a small stocky tower, was started south of the railway station on the land of Joseph Nordick, and completed by the middle of July, 1905. This little church was solemnly blessed on August 16, 1905 by Bishop Pascal, O.M.I., who also confirmed 13 members of the parish. On August 22 Paul Wacholtz and Aurelia Kintz were married at a nuptial Mass. At Watson some difficulty was encountered in finding a suitable site for the church, but it was soon overcome and on October 29, 1905 the first services were

Church of St Oswald Ramsden

Main Room, Cafe [illegible]

held in the new frame church It measured 30 by 22 feet and had a two-room annex on the west side as a dwelling for the pastor. Much credit is due to Father Benedict, who organized the congregations at Watson and Engelfeld and directed the building of the first churches

South of Watson, St. Oswald Mission was formed in 1906 and Father Peter said the first Holy Mass in that locality in the home of Mat Bartholet on section 12, township 35, range 19

August 19 On October 4 he baptized Adeline Catherine Fetter the first baptism administered in the new mission. He attended this mission from Muenster at regular intervals for about two until it was taken over by the resident pastor of Watson. On June 22 1910. Bishop Pascal paid

informal visit to the mission and commented favorably on the little church which the congregation had erected. St Oswald was chosen as patron in memory of Prior Oswald Moosmueller (St Oswald was king of Northumbria, England, and a friend of the Benedictines

A triple feast was celebrated in St Oswald's Church on August 29, 1916, when Bishop Pascal solemnly blessed the church and the bell and confirmed 13 young members of the mission Father

Casimir and Joseph assisting as deacon and subdeacon and Prior Peter preached a short G

The choir from Watson and the band from Engelfeld supplied the singing and the music. At the parish festival that followed the services, the sum of $400 was realized, and the congregation free of debt On August 20, 1950, under the pastorship of Father George Brocker, O.S.B., the church was moved to the village of Romance

For 22 months Father Benedict attended the new congregation at Watson and Engelfeld until he was succeeded by Father Meinrad Seitermann O.S.B., early in 1907 The same year Father Meinrad built the present parish house at a cost of $2,000, enlarged the church and added the tower After his departure in September, 1908, Father Benedict again took charge of Watson and Engelfeld until April, 1909, when Prior Bruno appointed Father Bernard Schaeffler, O.S.B., as pastor of both places and St Oswald's Mission

Bishop Pascal blessed the Watson church on June 3, 1910 and confirmed the Sacrament of Confirmation on 25 members On that occasion Prior Bruno celebrated a Highmass coram pontifice, while Fathers Peter and Bernard assisted the bishop, who addressed the congregation. The day before, June 2, 1910, the bishop, Prior Bruno and Father Bernard had driven by team to Engelfeld where Prior Bruno celebrated Highmass and the bishop confirmed 15. The bishop again visited Watson in 1911. On July 30 he celebrated Pontifical Highmass, assisted by Fathers Martin Hofmann, Joseph Wicket, Pierre Nicolet and Bernard Schaeffler At this service 30 children of the parish received Solemn Communion at the hands of the bishop In the afternoon he blessed three bells. The largest weighing 400 lbs., was donated by the Christian Mothers; the second, weighing 225 lbs., and the third, weighing 120 lbs., were donated by parishioners To the first was given the name "Anne" to the second, the name "Francis" and to the third, the name "Mary" Solemn Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament and a joyful Te Deum closed the inspiring ceremonies

Another celebration for the parish of the Sacred Heart was the first Solemn Highmass of Father Joseph Wicket O.S.B., who had been ordained priest by Bishop Pascal at Muenster September 17, 1911 He arrived at Watson September 30 and had his celebration on Rotary Sunday, October 1 Father Bernard, the pastor his assistant priest Father Peter was deacon and Father Casimir, subdeacon. Father Bernard preached in German at the morning service, and Father Peter in English in the afternoon at Solemn Vespers and Benedict

Abbot Bruno appointed Father Joseph as assistant to Father Bernard, and both priests attended not only the parish at Watson but also the mission at Engelfeld, St Oswald's, St Anselm's at Spalding, the mission at Jansen, and for some time

Peter's Colony but the Catholics in the district asked for a German-speaking priest, and the Benedictine Fathers readily came to their aid. Now Father F Juzyuk of Sinnett attends the mission of Our Lady Queen of Heaven at Jansen

In St Anselm's Mission Father Dominic said the first Mass, presumably on June 8, 1905. It was Father Chrysostom, however who organized the

mission on December 4, 1905, placing it under the protectum of the English Benedictine Bishop, St. Anselm. A log church 18 by 26 feet was completed during the summer of 1907 and Father Chrysostom had Highmass in it on June 9. This church stood on the southwest quarter of section 14, township 39, range 18. Because of the small number of Catholics in the district the mission was discontinued.

A similar fate befell the Holy Family Mission at Beauchamp, four miles west of Spalding. A small number of French Catholics homesteaded the district, and Bishop Pascal provided by sending Father Benoit, a French priest who endured real hardships there. Father Chrysostom lived at Beauchamp several years, also under very primitive conditions, until he moved to the new town of Norcam in 1926.

In 1912, under Father Bernard's supervision the present frame church at Englefeld was erected north of the town, and in January, 1913, Fat Joseph was appointed first resident pastor of Holy Guardian Angels' Parish. Watson's separate school, a frame building, was also erected during the nine years of Father Bernard's pastorate and

Father Dominic became pastor of Watson and took charge also of St. Oswald's Mission and the mission at Jansen. In July 1920, Abbot Michael transferred Father Dominic to Humboldt and pointed Father Fridolin Tembreull, O.S.B., pastor of Watson. Seeing that the frame church built by Father Benedict and enlarged by Father Meinr was too small for the growing congregation at Watson, Father Dominic had already made preparation for the construction of a more substantial one. The excavation was completed by August, 1920, and stones and sand were hauled to the site during the summer and winter. However, the actual struction of the basement church, 100 by 41 feet took place during Father Fridolin's pastorate. Bonas Brothers were the contractors of the $8,000 structure. The interior was 42 feet high and re ed light from 19 windows.

Abbot Michael blessed the new church on er 23, 1921. After the blessing Prior Peter d the solemn Highmass with Father Fridolin as dea Father Marcellus as subdea Father Pe delivered the German sermon. Abbot Michael celebrated Mass later in the ing, at which 42 children received their first Holy Communion. In the afternoon he confirmed 70 the parish, and announced that Father Marcellus was the new pastor of the Sacred Heart Parish and St. Oswald's Mission, and that Father Fridolin was returning to the Abbey.

During the pastorate of Father Marcellus the present Catholic separate school was erected, and the Benedictine Nuns placed in charge. On January and the sisters' dwelling completed during summer of 1924, was blessed on October 21 of the same year. Four Sisters were sent from Bruno to teach and in September, 1925, the school opened with 70 pupils in the elementary course and 12 the high school. A statue of the Sacred Heart was blessed by Father Peter at the end of Forty Hours Devotion on December 8, 1925, and was placed at the entrance to the school. By 1952 the school proved too small and measures were taken to large the building. The town officials permitting the issuance of debentures of $25,000, for that rpose.

n October, 1923, Father Marcellus was appointed pastor of Englefeld and St. Gregor and his place was taken by Father Theodore Doenker O.S.B. who guided both Watson and St. Oswald's Mission for twenty-five years. In the fall of 1948 he was appointed pastor of Carmel and the of the Immaculate Conception. His successor nce September 6, 1948, has been Father George Brodner, O.S.B. who also has charge of St. Oswald's Mission and Holy Rosary Mission at Leroy as has already been mentioned. Father George ranged the moving of St. Oswald's Church from its former location to the village of Romance in 950. At Leroy he established the mission of the Holy Rosary. (Romance and Leroy came into existence after the Canadian Pacific Railway built their line through St. Peter's Colony from Lan to Melfort during the years 919 - 1921. At Leroy Father George first offered Holy Mass on October 2, 1948 in a room over Pirie's drugstore and later used the theatre until a frame church was erected in 1949. In May, 1950, Abbot Severin blessed the Holy Rosary Church. Father George not only attends regularly to the parish of Watson, but every Sunday and holyday of obligation he also visits his missions, Father Abbot having

obtained for him the faculty of saying three Masse on these days

[illegible]t activity was seen during the year 1952 n the Sacred Heart Parish at Watson. The parsl had grown to such an extent that the basemen church, built during the pastorship of Father Fridolin, could no longer accommodate the [illegible] shippers. Preparations were made and collections for a building fund were begun in 1951, and n erials needed for the additions to the north and ter the superstructure were purchased the [illegible] vear Construction began in earnest in 1952 unde the supervision of Mr. Anton Stadelmann. The parishioners offered their wholehearted support and did much of the work gratis

The historical notes on the parish of Watson would be incomplete without mention of Mr. Wil iam Henry Howe, who died on March 3, 1939 at the age of 101 years. He was born in the Indiana ridges of Kentucky, United States, on March 28, 1838, and as a young man voted for Abraham Lincoln. After an adventurous life he [illegible] ang his possessions in a fire he moved to Watson 917. Shortly before his death he was received into the Church by Father Theodore, and on his 101st birthday, three days before his death, he had the happiness of receiving his first Holy Com munion. A Requiem Mass was sung by Father Theodore on April 1, and he was laid to rest in the parish cemetery. Mr. Howe attributed his great age to his constant cheerfulness

The present church at Engelfeld, a frame building 92 x 42 feet with a tower, was built on a new site north of the town during the summer of 1912. Mr. Jacob Schmitz, a member of the parish, was the contractor. A commodious winter chapel for services on week days was added later. The first divine service was held in it by Father Joseph, on October 27, 1912. That year a set of four bells was purchased, and on De cember 15, 1912, they were blessed by Bishop Pascal. Father Bernard celebrated Highmass, and Father Peter delivered a German sermon, recall ing events of earlier days and congratulating the parish on their achievements. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon the bishop blessed the bells, giving to the large one of 800 lbs. the name "Augustine," to the [illegible] one of 400 lbs. the name "Gabriel," to third one of 300 lbs. the name "Raphael," and to the fourth one of 240 lbs. the name "Ave Maria." Sponsors at the blessing were: Mr. and Mrs. August Breker; Mrs. and Mrs. Henry Nordeck; Mr. Bernard Tondorf and Mrs. Lange; Mr. and Mrs. A. Schmitz; Mr. and Mrs. N. Henriges, Mr. and Mrs. J. Breker.

In January, 1913, Abbot Bruno appointed Father Joseph pastor of Engelfeld and assigned to him the mission of St. Gregor and St. Martin, while Father Bernard remained pastor of Watson and the missions of St. Oswald, Carmel, and St. Anselm. Soon after his appointment Father Joseph took steps to erect a parish house and in June, the building was sufficiently completed to enable him to take up residence at Engelfeld.

Days of joy for Engelfeld were August 16-19, 1913, when Bishop Pascal blessed the new church and confirmed 61 boys and girls from Engelfeld, St. Gregor and St. Martin. The bishop, accom panied by Prior Peter, arrived by train on Saturday, August 16. He was met by Father Joseph, a squadron of horsemen, the Engelfeld band, a group of girls dressed in white, and the parishioners. His carriage was escorted to the rectory, where the pre late donned his episcopal robes. The bells rang joy fully as he was conducted into the church, where [illegible] was officially received, and Benediction of the the Blessed Sacrament was given. On Sunday, August 17, the Bishop was led in procession to the Church amid the thunderous sound of mortars and the ringing of the bells. After the dedication of the church Father Joseph celebrated a Highmass coram pontifice, Father Peter delivering the Ger [illegible] sermon. At 3 o'clock the bishop administered Confirmation and gave an inspiring address. Mr. and Mrs. August Breker acted as sponsors at the Confirmation. Next morning the Bishop blessed the rectory.

Father Joseph remained at Engelfeld till No vember, 1922, when Abbot Michael appointed him pastor of St. Ann's Church at Annaheim. Father Marcellus was named his successor but he resided at Watson and attended Engelfeld and St. Oswald from there until October, 1923, when he took up residence in Engelfeld. From that time he also had charge of St. Gregor. On May 27 [illegible] at a time when there was no resident priest at Engelfeld, lightning struck the church [illegible]

some damage to the tower and ceiling. During his pastorate Father Marcellus made extensive renovations in the church and enlarged the winter chapel

Engelfeld is proud to have given a priest, Father Aloysius Herriges, O.S.B. to St. Peter's Colony. He was ordained on June 29, 1928, and celebrated his first solemn Mass at Engelfeld on July 8, 1926. The newly-ordained priest was led in procession from the parish house to the church and at the altar imparted his first blessing to the congregation. Father Joseph, former pastor of Engelfeld, was assistant priest and preached the German and Father Matthew in English. Next day Father Aloysius celebrated a solemn Requiem Mass for his deceased father and relatives

Although seven parishes that were founded in 1903 — Leofeld, St. Benedict, Muenster, Annaheim, Marysborg, Fulda and Engelfeld — celebrated their silver jubilee conjointly at Muenster — June 27, 28, and 29, 1928, the parish of Engelfeld selected a special day, Sunday, October 28, 1928 to commemorate that event. Abbot Severin celebrated a Pontifical Highmass with Father Bernard as deacon, Father Aloysius as subdeacon, and Father Marcellus as master of ceremonies. Father Bernard preached in German on the Kingship of Christ and briefly reviewed the history of the parish. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon Father Abbot officiated at Benediction and afterwards blessed the enlarged winter chapel

Father Marcellus was pastor of Engelfeld till the middle of August, 1931, when he was assigned to the parish of Muenster and Father Leo Ojdowski, was placed in charge. On Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 1935, Father Leo became very ill after his first Mass, but managed to say a second Mass after which he suffered a hemorrhage and lost consciousness. Examination disclosed cancer of the liver and he died in St. Michael's Hospital Cudworth, on July 11, 1936. The parish was served for a time from Muenster until Father Matthew became pastor. He remained here until August 1939, when he was replaced by Father Stephen Mohorko, O.S.B., whose pastorate lasted until September, 1943. Father Matthew was again appointed pastor and was given charge also of St. Martin's Mission. On July 1, 1947 Father Matthew appointed pastor of St. Ann's Church, Annaheim to succeed Father Joseph, who had died two months previously. He retained his charge of St. Martin's Mission, and Father Marcellus returned Engelfeld

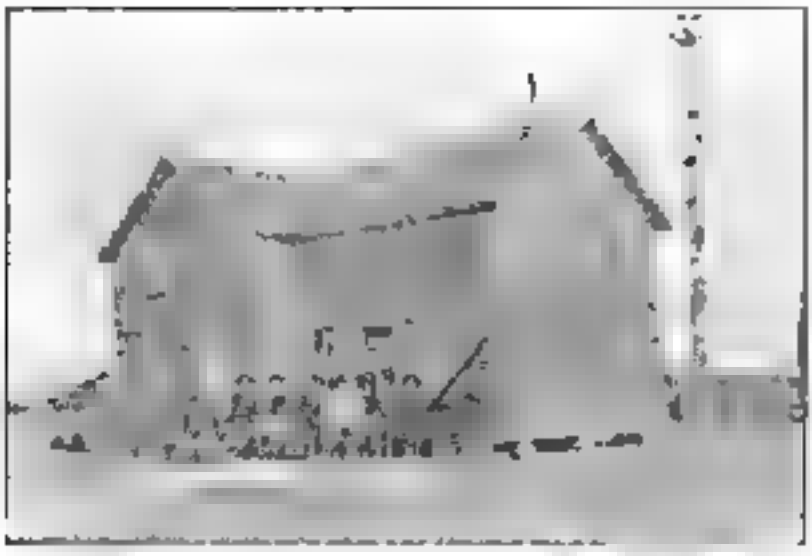
Worthy of recording is the Katholikentag of St. Peter's Colony held at Engelfeld on July 13 and 14, 1926. On the first day Prior Peter celebrated a solemn High Mass with Fathers Matthew and Theodore as deacon and subdeacon. Speeches were given by Mr. B. Benz, district president of the Volksverein, Mr. Anton Stadelmann, vice-president of the Volksverein and Mr. William Steiner, mayor of Engelfeld. Addresses were given also by Fathers Marcellus, Hilland, O.M.I., and Peter, Present Provincial of the Oblate Fathers, August Kierdorf O.M.I., general secretary of the Volksverein, I. Gabriel, O.M.I., Joseph Sittenauer, Matthias, Lawrence, and Leo. On the second day Father Liebe offered a solemn Requiem for the deceased members of the Volksverein, and Fathers Hilland and Gabriel assisted him as deacon and subdeacon. Father Kierdorf gave an impressive address on the Catholic Lay Apostolate. The bands from Engelfeld and Lake Lenore were in attendance, children of Engelfeld gave a performance, and the Theatrical Club from Muenster played "Ross von Tannenburg"

At least three young ladies of the parish of Watson and one from the parish of Engelfeld have dedicated their lives to God in the Ursuline Order at Bruno

Approximately 20 miles north of Watson the town of Naicam came into existence when the C.P.R. line was constructed through Watson from Lanigan to Melfort. The roadbed from Lanigan to Naicam was finished shortly before Christmas in 1919 and the rails were laid in 1920. Freight and construction trains operated on the new line in 1921 but passenger service was not inaugurated till April 1, 1922, when bi-weekly service was begun. Even then it took and hour and 50 minutes to travel from Watson to Naicam. When the *Naicam Progress* began publication in July, 1922 the town was one of few which could boast of a newspaper before having a railway station. Naicam has a beautiful location on section 2, township 40, range 18, and has a population of about 500, the majority of whom are non-Catholics.

Father Chrysostom Hoffmann, O.S.B., who in pioneer days visited the most isolated mission posts outside St. Peter's Colony, going as far east as Paswegin, Wadena and Kuroki and as far north as LacVert and Pleasantdale, was not slow in recognizing the importance of the new town of Naicam. With the blessing of his superiors he set out to organize a new parish there. On May 10 [illegible]26 he celebrated the first Mass in the town hall. Although the choir had but a short time to practice, hymns were sung during Mass to the accompaniment of an organ. During the service, which a number of non-Catholics attended, Father Chrysostom spoke of the importance of religion and of the Catholic Church. After Mass a meeting was held and the following men were elected as a church-building committee: D. J. Grandy, T. Plante and Charles Schumacher. In the afternoon Father Chrysostom baptized Harold Joseph, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Romeo Tetrault, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Grandy acting as sponsors. The baptism took place in the parlor of the hotel owned by Mr. Grandy and was the first baptism administered in the new parish. Holy Mass was again celebrated in the town hall on Sunday, June 14. At the service on December 13, 1925 a collection was taken up to buy a site for the new church and to purchase an organ. St. George was chosen as the patron saint of the parish, for on his feast the first Mass was offered at Naicam. At a meeting of the parish on January 31, 1926, committees [illegible] the building fund. Six acres of land were purchased Chrysostom reported that $10,000 would be required to erect a suitable church and rectory on the property. At a box social on January 19 [illegible] of $119 was realized and added to the building

Near the end of June, 1926, the erection of the church began with Messrs. Ruest and Sons as contractors, and by the end of August it was [illegible]ally completed. The first divine service held [illegible] church was a Highmass by Father Chrysostom on Christmas night. Another Highmass was offered at 10 o'clock in the morning and again on the following day, which was a Sunday. Since there was no such service within a radius of 18 miles, people came from all sides, and the new church was filled to capacity. Father Chrysostom was so well pleased with Naicam that he decided to leave the solitude of Beardsmore and take up residence there. Two weeks before Christmas in 1926 he began to move his personal belongings. St. George's Church was solemnly dedicated by Abbot Severin on June 15, 1927. Before bestowing this blessing he blessed and laid the cornerstone. In his sermon he explained the significance of these [illegible]onies, saying that Christ is the cornerstone of [illegible] Catholic church and that everything centers around the altar and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. After the dedication Father Chrysostom offered a Highmass *coram pontifice*. Father Abbot's assistants were Fathers Rudolph, Marcellus, and Theodore. The Engelfeld choir with their director and organist, Mr. John Schwinghammer, sang at the sacred function. After the service the parish festival was held, with the Lake Lenore band contributing to the festive spirit. In the afternoon Father Lawrence of Folda and Father Leo of Bruno paid a short visit to Naicam. The people of Naicam [illegible]cluding non-Catholics, co-operated so well with Father Chrysostom that by the time the church was blessed half of the debt was paid



Founder's house where first Mass was said.

Holy Family Log Church, Broadway

On Saturday, July 1, 1928, Father Chrysostom observed the silver jubilee of his priesthood. He had not planned any celebration, and his parishioners were not aware of this anniversary. Great was his surprise when, despite the muddy roads caused by a heavy rain the day before, an auto drew up before the church shortly before 10 o'clock and Father Abbot, Father Matthew, and a cleric from Muenster stepped out. The visitors urged the unassuming pastor to sing a solemn High Mass on such an occasion. Abbot Severin preached on the power and dignity of the Catholic priest and solemn Benediction closed the divine service. At the dinner in Mr. Grandia's hotel the parishioners extended congratulations to the jubilarian and presented a purse.

Father Chrysostom's hobby was the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers, and this hobby he exercised on the church property, where he had planted no less than 225 trees of various species, including oak.

On July 28, 1929, a parish meeting decided to build a frame rectory to cost $3,000. Mr. David Rust, a member of the parish and the contractor for the church, was given the contract. By the end of September, 1929, the house was completed.

On Sunday, September 15, 1929, five boys and six girls of the parish received their first Holy Communion. It was the first time that such a [illegible] had taken place in the church.

In the summer of 1929 Father Chrysostom visited his aged mother at Manchester, New Hampshire, and on his return he brought her with him as far as Watson, where she remained at the rectory until the parish house was completed. She moved to Naicam in December and kept house for Father Chrysostom until she died on March 19, 1933, at the age of 83 years. Before her death she had arranged to donate her savings of $4,500.00 to the Abbot Bruno scholarship for the education of [illegible].

On June 14, 1932, St. George's Church was struck by lightning. Mr. M. Knudson, noticing smoke rising from the southeast corner of the building, gave the alarm and with the help of others quickly extinguished the blaze. The damage did not exceed a hundred dollars.

Abbot Severin visited Naicam again on September 15, 1935 and confirmed 36 members of the parish. Father Chrysostom, celebrated a High Mass after which Prior Peter and Father Aloysius of Muenster assisted Father Abbot in the confir[illegible].

On week days and on the first and third Sunday of every month Father Chrysostom offered Mass at Naicam, on the second and fourth Sunday St. Martin's Mission, and on the fifth Sunday when one occurred at the Holy Family Mission at Beauchamp. He continued this practice until serious illness forced him to undergo [illegible] in St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, in 1939. At the end of October he returned to Naicam in a much [illegible] two months. His burden was lightened somewhat when St. Martin's Mission was placed in charge of the pastor of Engelfeld. Father Chrysostom returned to Muenster in October 1942 to live in [illegible].

While Father Chrysostom was serving at Muenster Fathers from the Abbey, among them Fathers Cosmas and Edward, attended St. George's Parish on Sundays and holy days of obligation. On August 29, 1943, after a Highmass sung by Father Edward, Abbot Severin confirmed 19 children of the parish. On this occasion Father Chrysostom was present and was glad to see his parishioners ag[illegible]. In September, 1943, he felt strong enough to take charge of the parish again, and since then he has visited it regularly every Sunday, going there every Friday and returning to Muenster on Monday.

A son of the parish, Father Andre Florentin O.M.I., an alumnus of St. Peter's College, was ordained on June 29, 1941 and shortly afterwards was appointed missionary for the Indians at Cross River, Manitoba. In the summer of 1942 he visited his home parish where he celebrated Mass and preached.

Former Holy Family Church, south of Bruce, mission of Lashkill.

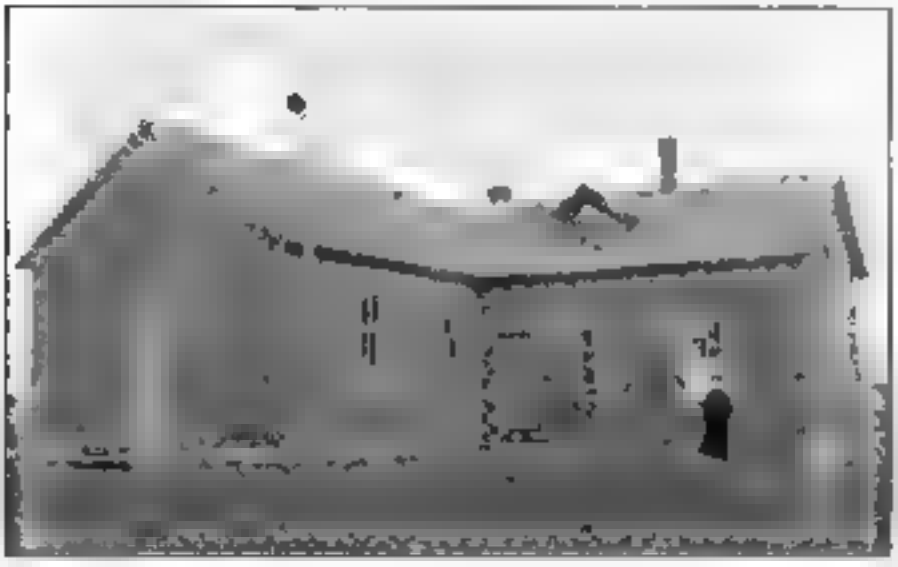
Church of St. George, Holyrood.

Bruno and Peterson

The first Holy Mass in the district which is St. Bruno's Parish was said by Father Meurin and Seifermann, O.S.B., pastor of Leofeld, on November 5, 1903 at the house of Mr. Peter Hoffmann in township 39, range 25. Since that time the district has been known as St. Bruno's Parish. The name was chosen to honour Abbot Bruno Doerfler, who labored so indefatigably at the time of the founding of St. Peter's Monastery and St. Peter's Colony, first as priest and explorer, then as Prior and finally as first Abbot. The name Bruno was appropriately chosen for another reason. It was Father Bruno who first set foot in that region. September 23, 1902. He was on his second inspection trip in the company of Messrs. H. J. Haskamp and John Hoeschen, travelling east from Hanley and Dundurn to the Government Trail and as far as Mount Carmel. Prior Alfred intended to call the place St. Bruno, but since there was already a place by that name in the province of Quebec, the Dominion Government suggested that duplication of the name be avoided and the place be called simply Bruno. The actual founder however of St. Bruno's Parish was Father Chrysostom, who on on July 18, 1904, said the first Holy Mass in what is now the town of Bruno in the store of Mr. William Smith.

Divine Providence has many ways of providing for God's children, and sometimes these ways border on the humorous. A white mare belonging to St. Peter's Monastery led to the founding of St. Bruno's Parish. On June 26, 1904, Father Chrysostom had services in the little log church at Dead Moose Lake and drove back to Mr. Lawrence Lundberg's house for dinner. Parishioners unhitched his horse "Kate" and tied her to a pole in the stable. When Father looked for his horse after the meal it was gone; only a piece of rope dangled from the pole. Dissatisfied for some reason the horse had taken "French leave" and went a distance of twenty miles to the home of Mr. Joseph Meyer, who homesteaded a few miles north of the spot where Bruno now lies. Monastery teams frequently stopped overnight at Mr. Meyer's place on westbound trips to and from Rosthern, and "Kate" evidently remembered the good treatment she had received there. It took about a week before Father Chrysostom discovered where his disobedient horse had wandered. On learning its whereabouts, he set out to recover it. After saying Mass on July 3 in St. Bernard's Mission, now disbanded, he drove with Mr. Gottfried Schaeffer to Joseph Meyer's place. The new roadbed of the C.N.R. proved a good highway (the steel was not yet laid) and they made the trip in record time. On the way back they stopped at Mr. William Smith's, the only building in the place where Bruno now stands. Here Father Chrysostom was told about a large number of settlers in this part of the Colony and that they were all eager to have Holy Mass offered in their midst. On his return to the monastery he laid the matter before Prior Alfred, who decided that a regular mission station be started and requested Father Chrysostom to hold services there on the Mondays after the Sundays he had been at St. Bernard's Mission. On July 18, 1904, the first Holy Mass was celebrated by Father Chrysostom at St. Bruno's Mission in the store of William Smith. Mass was offered subsequently at Bruno every second Monday. At that time there were about 24 families.

In the fall of 1903 the land around the district had not yet been surveyed and land in quarter sections. The settlers in the district expected the C.N.R. to establish a station on section 16, township 38, range 25 and urged Prior Alfred to have one of his priests take possession of some land in order to obtain so-called "scrip" and thus secure property on which the future church could be built. Heeding this advice, Father Chrysostom with the aid of Joseph Meyer made some improvements on the southwest quarter of section 6 in October 1903, and after the land was surveyed, this quarter was granted Father Chrysostom as a homestead. As was expected, the C.N.R. selected that quarter for a railway station and a townsite. The company requested Father Chrysostom to turn over his homestead to them and granted him some compensation. If he had not



Old St. Anne Church. Fr. Chiniquy at right

St. Anne Church and Rectory, shortly after completion.

consented, the C.N.R. would probably have established the station of Bruno farther west. With part of the money from the sale of the homestead Prior Alfred purchased five acres of land on May 7, 1903, from Mr. Anton Koenig, who donated another five acres. On the same day Prior Alfred held services at Bruno.

On Monday, September 26, 1904, and again on Monday, October 10, Father Peter held services at the mission. On September 26 the first trustees were were elected: Herman Koe[illegible] Theodore Lammerding and Joseph Meyer. William Smith was appointed treasurer. At that time F[illegible] Chrysostom was replacing Father Meinrad for a month at Leofeld. The first Highmass at Bruno was celebrated by Father Chrysostom on Sunday, January 15, 1905, in the store of William S[illegible] Frater Placid Wolf, O.S.B., a cleric of St. Peter's Priory, accompanied him on that trip and did the singing. From that day Bruno had services on Sunday. Shortly after the first Highmass a choi[illegible]ed so that from the summer of 1905 the men's choir at Bruno sang regularly. The first parish festival was held on September 3, 1906, and netted the sum of $260.

On June 4, 1905, Prior Alfred again visited Bruno to preside at a meeting which decided to build a log church 20 by 40 feet. Work was be[illegible] immediately, and on July 9 Father Chrysostom [illegible] to celebrate the first Highmass in it. On August 18, 1905, Bishop Pascal, assisted by Fathers Alfred and Chrysostom, blessed the new church, dedicating it to St. Bruno, and confirmed 10 children. On his second visit on June 9, 1910, Bishop Pascal confirmed 44. Prior Bruno sang the Highmass and preached in German. Present in the sanctuary were the pastor, Father Chrysostom, Father Matthias of Leofeld, and Father Benedict of St. Benedict. The bishop preached in English; both he and Prior Bruno stressed the importance of a good Catholic school. The third time that Bishop Pascal administered Confirmation at Bruno was August 4, 1913, when 49 persons were confirmed. Sponsors on this occasion were Mr. Anton Koenig and Mrs. Catherine Smith. On August 2, 1920, Abbot Michael Ott, O.S.B., confirmed 90 persons from Bruno and St. Maurus' Mission at Dana. For a long time the the mission at Dana was in charge of Father Leo, who as late as May 20, 1921, administered First Holy Communion to 15 children there.

Fully recognizing the importance of a good Catholic education, Father Chrysostom moved to Bruno temporarily on September 1, 1906, and opened a parish school with an enrollment of 21. He took up residence in an annex attached to the east side of the church. By the end of the month the number of children in school had increased to 27. In October of the same year Mr. W. F. Hal[illegible]ten became the teacher and continued in that capacity for two years. In the years following, Miss Kramer of Regina, Mr. J. Adam, Michael Pitzel and Henry Mueller were engaged as teachers. In April 1914 Mr. Honish went to Muenster and asked Abbot Bruno to arrange that the Ursuline N[illegible] take charge of the parish school. His request [illegible] granted, and on April 19, 1914, Mother Clara took over the school, other Sisters arrived later. The [illegible] to the church which Father Chrysostom [illegible] a residence, was renovated and given to the Sisters, while a rectory consisting of one [illegible] and an attic was built. A new annex was added to the log church to give the Sisters [illegible] and a little chapel of their.

Father Chrysostom administered the first baptism at Bruno on November 7, 1904, to Gertrude Hoffmann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hoffmann. The first funeral was that of a child of Wenzeslaus Koenig, the child died on October 8, 1905, and was buried next day. The first wedding solemnized in St. Bruno's Church was that of Thomas L. Young and Mary Hessdorfer on November 6, 1907. On the feast of Corpus Christi, May 30, 1907, 7 boys and 5 girls received their first Holy Communion. On that day Father Chrysostom sang a Highmass, Father Peter gave the sermon, Vespers were held in the afternoon and the first communicants were invested with the scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. On October 14, 1906, the Confraternity of Christian Mothers was established, and a short time later the Altar's Aid Society. In January, 1906, there remained a parish debt of only $50.

On January 1, 1907, Father Chrysostom took up permanent residence at Bruno, and St. Br[illegible] Mission then became a parish. At first he lived [illegible] six-room house and took his meals at the home of Mrs. Catherine Smith and her son William. He devoted his spare time to the planting of trees and

flowers, and to this day many of his trees remain as a monument of his work

It was not long before the log church at Bruno proved too small. After Highmass on October 14 906, a meeting of the parish was held, at which it was decided that by next spring each home steader was to haul stones for the construction of a basement church. The stones were hauled, but the construction was delayed until the summer of 19.. after Prior Bruno had celebrated a High Mass August 17, 9.. Bishop Pascal blessed the of the new building, and on Christmas Father Chrysostom held two Highmasses and one Mass in it The dimensions of the basement church were 101 feet by 50 feet and the interior ht was 12 feet

Father George Scheffold, O.S.B., preached the first mission at Bruno from July 1. to 18, 1915 and on the closing day the first Solemn Mass was celebrated in the parish, Father Matthias being the celebrant and Fathers Chrysostom and George deacon and subdeacon

After Father Chrysostom had been pastor of St. Bruno's Parish for 14 years, Abbot Bruno appointed him subprior of the Abbey and pastor of the Muenster parish. During his pastorate he baptized 413 children, 460 in 1916) blessed 9 ages, and had 67 funerals. Annual Holy Communions had increased to 1 000 When he left Bruno there was a parish dept of only $400. In his earlier days at Bruno Father Chrysostom frequent visited the missions of Dana, Peterson, St Bede Mission at Meacham, and others. During Father Chrysostom's pastorate an epidemic of diphtheria sultine in a number of deaths invaded Bruno The pastor and his flock vowed an annual pro- n and public prayers—and the scourge ceased

On May 29, 1917 Abbot Bruno appointed Father Leo Ojdowski, O.S.B., as pastor of Bruno At that time the town of Bruno had 700 inhabit nce. and the parish comprised 143 families and 18 bachelors. Shortly after Father Leo's arrival the parish erected a new rectory of interlocking tile from the Bruno Clay Works costing $5,500. The two-story house 34 by 36 feet has nine rooms, a veranda on the south side a full basement and was ready for occupancy by winter

The year 1918 saw the erection of an 58,000 parochial school, a two-storey structure 28 by 58 feet, also of tile Situated east of the ol the rectory, it contained four classrooms, a school chapel and a full basement

On Saturday, March, 2, 1919, Bishop Pascal came to Bruno, and Mass in the chapel of the Ursuline Nuns next morning and afterwards attended the Highmass celebrated by Prior Peter in the church. Father Leo assisted the bishop; Father Peter preached. After Highmass the bishop, vested episcopal robes, was led to the new school and blessed it. After this ceremony Benedict Hergarter a pupil of the school, presented the following ad to the bishop: "We children of St Bruno's Parish School have the great honour of seeing Your Lordship in our midst on the occasion of the bless ing of our new school of which we are justly proud We highly esteem this honour and are very pleased at your Lordship's taking so much interest n the education of children in imitation of the Divine Lover of the little ones. We promise hence to do our very best to develop our intellectual qualities, above all to train our character and to acquire a profound knowledge of our holy religion so that we may grow up loyal Canadians, but first and foremost true children of our Holy Mother Church. With these promises we combine most fervent wishes and prayers that Your Lordship may labor in health many years as bishop of Prince Albert for the welfare of our holy Church and the faithful We further trust that Your Lordship will always keep a little corner in your episcopal heart for the children of St Bruno s School

After finishing school at Bruno Benedict Hergarten attended St. Peter's College obtained his doctor's degree at the University of Edmonton practised for a number of years in St Peter's Colony, and is now a physician and surgeon in Saskatoon.) In his reply to the address the bishop said: "The training of the mind must be perfected by the training of the will and the heart Training of the mind alone may produce clever writers t mathematicians, astute lawyers smart cheaters and consummate criminals, but will not develop characters. Religion is an absolute necessity in education. Without religion there cannot be real virtue, honesty, charity, loyalty" The children of Bruno, he added, might call themselves happy to have such good teachers as the Ursuline Nuns

The new school was opened on April 2, 1919 with Mother Antonia as teacher in classroom 1,

Mother Agatha in classroom 2, and Miss Helen Kopp in Classroom 3. Soon afterwards classroom 4 was also filled.

The year 1919 also witnessed the erection of the motherhouse of the Ursulines in Bruno. The [illegible] sisters assisted the Sisters greatly by doing [illegible] new convent and academy, and pledged the [illegible] of $5,000 for the project. Excavating was started already in the summer of 1918, and on June 22 1919, shortly after Abbot Bruno's death, the corner stone of the three storey building, 44 by 100 feet [illegible] blessed and laid by Prior Peter. The contractors for the building were the Bonas Br[illegible] On November 9, 1919, the building was [illegible] by Abbot Michael, assisted by Fathers Leo and Frobolin. The three bells of the parish church [illegible] so blessed that day by the Abbot.

The growth of the Bruno parish was very rapid. By 1921 no less than 789 baptisms had been administered, while the number of marriages had increased to 98 and the burials to about 100. When the basement church was constructed during Father Chrysostom's pastorate, it was considered much too large, but by 1921 it proved too small. At a meeting of the parish on February 21 it was decided to remove the hall built above the basement church and to erect an enlarged structure to serve as church, the basement being a parish hall. Building began soon after under the direction of Messrs. Walter van Bergen [illegible]

The $13,000 church was blessed by Abbot Michael on October 16, 1921. After the blessing [illegible] Fathers Leo and Marcellus as deacon subdeacon and Frater Wilfrid, a son o[illegible] celebrant at the Mass, preached in German, reviewing briefly the history of the parish, and Father Abbot gave the English sermon, praising the parish for its accomplishments during the preced[illegible] Dinner was served in the basement and in the evening a German play was staged. On that day $1,100 was raised.

When Father Leo visited his home in Pittsburgh in July, 1920, Father Marcellus replaced him a few months, attending also the missions at Ca[illegible] Conception and for a time St. Scholastica. During the summer of 1921 Father Marcellus went to the United States for an operation, and shortly after his return, was appointed pastor of Watson.

Two celebrations were held in Bruno in 1922, the general convention of the Volksverein on April 5 and 6, and the Katholikentag on July 25 and 26. Abbot Michael, then General Director of the Volksverein, celebrated a Pontifical High[illegible] Mass on April 5. Prior Peter was the assistant priest, Father Joseph, O.S.B., and Father Blank S.J. of Regina, were deacons of honour. Father Dominic O.S.B. and Father Sieler, O.M.I. were deacon and subdeacon at the Mass, and Father [illegible] Hubets O.M.I., delivered the sermon. Next day Prior Peter celebrated a Requiem Highmass for the deceased members of the Volksverein. Delegates from many places in Saskatchewan were present, especially from Regina. Mr. William Bens gave an address on the duties of a Catholic la[illegible] and Abbot Michael praised the work of M[illegible] W. F. Hargarten in supplying Catholic schools in the provinces with good Catholic teachers.

At the Katholikentag on July 25 Abbot Michael pontificated again, and gave the sermon in which he stressed the importance of Catholic [illegible] and the blessings emanating from them and imparted the Apostolic Blessing. During his recent visit to Rome he had received [illegible] from the Holy Father to impart this blessing to the people of his jurisdiction. More than a hundred school trustees from the Colony were present and attended a special meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Hargarten. On the second day of the Katholikentag Father Leo celebrated a Highmass and in the afternoon an imposing parade under the direction of Mr. Anton Gasper marched through the town. Various groups of the Volk[illegible] ned banners, and the bands of Annaheim and Bruno played. When the parade returned to [illegible] space east of the church Father Blank, S.J. delivered an instructive address on secret societies [illegible] and their dangers.

Bruno was again chosen for the district's Katholikentag on August 21, 1927 which opened with a solemn Highmass by Father Wilfrid Hergott O.S.B., and Abbot Severin preached. "To be a good member of a Catholic society one must be above all a good Catholic," he said, adding that unity among the children of the Church was necessary especially in these perilous times. Later in the day Prior Peter, the president of the Volksverein, ex

pressed his pleasure at the good attendance, and Mr James Hogan, M.L.A., spoke on immigration stressing the importance of selecting good Catholic settlers. Father August Kierdorf, O.M.I., the general secretary for the immigration department of the Volksverein, spoke on "The Volksverein for the Catholics of Germany," and Mr Bernard Bott spoke on "The Volksverein and its problems Canada and especially in Saskatchewan."

The Parish of Bruno again was the host for a Katholikentag on August 2, 1931. Abbot Severin celebrated a pontifical Highmass, and Prior Peter preached in German and English, taking as subjects "The Papacy" and "St. Elizabeth of Thuringia," for that year the Church was ob the 700th anniversary of the death of St Elizabeth. In the afternoon Father Abbot gave an address on the Third Council of Ephesus, which had defined that the Blessed Virgin is truly the Mother of God. The council was held in 43

60 years previously. Baron von Klopp-Vogelsang

Novarum" and "Quadragesimo Anno." The also a jubilee address, for it was in 1891, forty previously, that Pope Leo XIII had issued the encyclical "Rerum Novarum." Father Marcel delivered another jubilee address on St. An of Padua, who died in 123

Three sons of St. Bruno's Parish are priests Benedictines of St Peter's Abbey. The first Father Wilfrid Hergott, was ordained by Bishop Joseph Prud'homme of Prince Albert at Tramping Lake Saskatchewan, on July 27, 1924 and celebrated his first solemn Highmass at Bruno on August 17, as sisted by Father Fridolin as assistant priest, and Fathers Casimir and Chrysostom as deacon and subdeacon, Abbot Michael occupied the throne the sanctuary, and preached on the dignity and of the priesthood

Father Alphonse Ludwig was ordained a Muenster, June 29, 1932 by Bishop Prud'homme and celebrated his first solemn Highmass at Bruno July 3, 1932. Abbot Severin, vested in Cappa Magna, presided at the throne and Father Chrysostom, who had baptized the celebrant 27 years previously, was the assistant priest, and Fathers Bernard and Wilfrid were deacon and subdeacon Father Bernard preached in English and in Ger

On June 23, 1935, the third priest from the parish celebrated his first solemn Highmass, here Father Norbert Schwinghammer, who had been ordained on June 10 at St John's Abbey, College ville, Minnesota, where he completed his studies Aobot Severin delivered the festive sermon and Prior Peter was the assistant priest, Fathers Wil frid, and Alphonse, deacon and subdeacon. In the afternoon Father Norbert carried the Blessed Sacrament in procession, and gave Benediction, and later blessed a new statue of St. Benedict

In July, 1927, after a pastorate of 10 years, Father Leo was appointed pastor of Muenster and Father Bernard succeeded him here. A farewell celebration for Father Leo was held on July 17 when Messrs. John Bouraoel and Anton Gasper gave speaches expressing the regret of the parish at losing their beloved pastor and a number of valu able gifts were presented as tokens of gratitude for his work in Bruno

About a month before Father Leo's departure Bishop Prud'homme of Prince Albert came to Bruno to bless the marriage of Mr James Kelly of Humboldt and Miss Veronica Schwinghammer The bridegroom was a friend and former classmate of the bishop

On May 27, 1931, Father Bernard celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination At 9:30 the jubilarian went in procession from the parish house to the church, where he offered a solemn High mass Fourth degree Knights of Columbus ac companied him as a guard of honour In the sanctuary were Abbot Severin, vested in Cappa Magna, and the Hon. Dr J. M. Uhrich, a Knight of St Gregory Father Bernard was assisted by Prior Peter assistant priest; Father Leo deacon; Fa Father Casimir subdeacon and Father Abbot preached. The Bruno band to which Father Ber nard always devoted much care, played during the procession and again at the Te Deum

To honour the members of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers at Bruno, who celebrated their silver jubilee on February 7 1932 Abbot Severin sang a Highmass and preached a sermon During 1931 the baptisms in the parish numbered 44, the marriage 13, and the funerals 11 Ap proximately 300 children were receiving religious instruction, and 30,000 Holy Communion were

Father Bernard made extensive improvements to the church and parish house, erected a shrine in honor of Our Lady, planted additional trees especially around the shrine, and had the cemetery put in good condition. A blow for him and the parish was the fire in the church on January 21 1950. During the night a fire started near the stoker and ate its way to the choir loft and through the roof at the southwest corner. The building was saved through the efforts of 150 men from the town, but the intense heat and the smoke caused heavy damage to the walls and furnishings. Shannon Brothers of Saskatoon undertook to repair the damage, renovating the church and the basement so completely that they are now in much better condition than they were before. During this work Mass was celebrated in the chapel of the Ursuline Convent.

On June 29, 1951, Father Aloysius Schreiber, S.J. celebrated his first solemn Highmass in the renovated church, in the presence of his grandmother, Mrs. van Bergen. Father Bernard was his assistant and preached the sermon while Fathers Martin and Albert were deacon and subdeacon.

On July, 1952, Father Bernard celebrated a solemn Highmass to commemorate his twenty-fifth anniversary as pastor of St. Bruno's Parish. Father Martin, part-time assistant of Father Bernard, served as deacon, Father Jerome as subdeacon and Prior Peter preached. A parish banquet and a program took place in the afternoon followed by Benediction.

Present St. Bruno Church.

Old St. Agnes Church, Fairmount.

Present Church of St. Agnes

St. Agnes Parish, Peterson

While pastor of St. Bruno's Parish, Father Chrysostom visited the locality which now forms the Mission of St. Agnes, and celebrated the first Holy Mass in the house of Ephrem Douvin on May 4, 1909. He again had Holy Mass there January 11 and 12, and on April 30, 1910. On August 18, 1910, he said Holy Mass at Mr. Gurisky's place, northeast of Viscount, near the site of the present St. John's Church, which was built later by Father Schaefer. When the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway constructed the line through the western part of St. Peter's Colony in 1911, a station was laid out on section 20, township 37, range 26, and the name of Peterson was given to the village which came into existence. Then Holy Mass was celebrated at intervals a few times in the house of Mr. Tremel in the village, and northeast at Peterson in the more spacious house of Mr. Louis Julé. On August 28, 1921, Father Chrysostom was able to sing the first High Mass in Mr. Julé's house. Singers from Meacham went to Peterson for the occasion, and aided the choir.

With the encouragement of Father Chrysostom, a church was built in Peterson, and completed far enough to have the first High Mass in it on August 24, 1924. St. Agnes' Mission was attended once a month from Muenster and later on, from about the year 1940, twice a month. A number of Fathers successively went to Peterson, among them Fathers John, Paul and Wilfrid. In the winter of 1930 Father John was given full charge of the mission. Succeeding pastors were: Father Cosmas to 1936; Father Bernard 1936-37; Father Alphonse, 1937-40; Father Luke, 1940-42; Father William, 1942-45; Father Philip from 1945 to the present time.

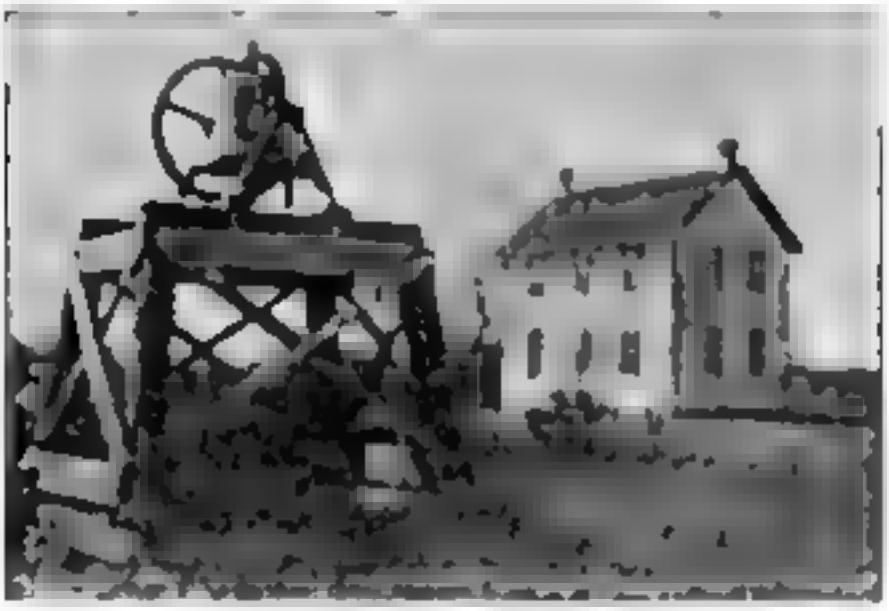
On July 20, 1930, the first Solemn High Mass was celebrated in St. Agnes' Church. On this occasion Father John, united in the bonds of matrimony Peter B. DeMong and Miss Gertrude Wurm. Rt. Rev. Joseph Wurm, Vicar General of the diocese of Crookston, Minnesota, and an uncle of the bride, celebrated the solemn High Mass. Father Emil Luettiche, also of Minnesota, and a cousin of the bride, was deacon of the Mass, and Father John subdeacon.

Another important feast was celebrated on June 15, 1930, when Abbot Severin blessed the church, and celebrated a Pontifical High Mass with the assistance of Father John and Frater Alphonse. During the Mass a number of the children made their solemn Communion. Father Abbot preached, and conferred upon the children the sacrament of Confirmation.

Between December 4 and 8, 1932, Father Wilfrid preached a well attended retreat here, despite the severe cold that prevailed. On December 8, feast of the Immaculate Conception, five children of the mission made their first Holy Communion. The following year, 1933, the Catholic Women's League was established in the Mission.

St. Agnes' Church was too small to accomodate the crowd that had gathered on Sunday, Aug. 14 to celebrate the silver jubilee of the church. On this occasion six children of the parish received their first Holy Communion, and 21 members of the parish and of the neighboring parish of St. Maurus, Dana, received the sacrament of Confirmation. Father William, a former pastor, offered the jubilee Mass of thanksgiving, assisted by Father Wilfrid as deacon, Father Norbert as subdeacon and Father Philip, pastor, as master of ceremonies. Before communion the children. Abbot Severin gave them a beautiful sermon on the efficacy of the Sacraments, with emphasis on the Holy Eucharist. Addressing the adults, he emphasized the necessity of imparting a genuine religious instruction to the children in their families.

In 1952 a new church was constructed under the direction of Father Philip, with Mr. W. Jones of Muenster as the contractor. Much of the labor was donated by members of the mission and by others. The trustees during the time of building were Henry Basset, Sr., Yves Jule, and Leo Wurm and other members of the building committee were J. J. Felix and John Tremel. The church was blessed on November 9, 1952 by Abbot Severin, assisted by Father Philip, pastor and Father Florian and the dedication was followed by a votive Mass in honor of St. Agnes sung by Father Florian. In his sermon Abbot Severin stressed the importance of the church as a place of worship in the life of a parish.



St. Augustine Church, Humboldt

St. Scholastica & Conception, Carmel

The Church in Humboldt had a hard beginning. When the Benedictines arrived in Canada there was no town or village in the whole territory. There were only the two families of John Ecker, Charles Schmidt, on homesteads a short distance to the east of the present town of Humboldt. The early settlers did not believe that the location, covered as it was with brush and dotted with sloughs and potholes before the railroad arrived, was suitable for a townsite. That is one reason why Prior Alfred established the mission of St. Bernard's four miles west, the present Dixon. Even after the railroad reached Humboldt (the first motive which reached Muenster September 2

uninviting. The next year it had not improved much. In September 1905 two Benedictine Nuns, Mother Cecilia and Sister Louise from St. Joseph's, Minn., visited the Colony with a view of establishing a foundation in Saskatchewan. While passing through the present location of Humboldt their democrat wagon, was mired in the mud for two hours. One of the singletrees broke and had to be replaced with a gun barrel. Prior Alfred and Prior Herman Bergmann, O. S. B., of St. John's Abbey were occupying the front of the wagon at the time. This occurred on September 23, and the next day the Sisters returned to Minnesota, deciding not to start a foundation in the colony.

The Canadian Northern Railway, now the Canadian National Railway chose Humboldt as the location for their roundhouse and station. The name Humboldt was taken over from the so-called Humboldt Telegraph Station named by James McKay of Winnipeg in 1875 after the German explorer Alexander von Humboldt who visited South America, Mexico and the United States from 1799 to 1804. This Telegraph station was located a little south of the present town and when the Benedictines arrived in 1903 on their trip to M... they rested there overnight. It was deserted and in

Prior Alfred celebrated the first Mass in Humboldt in 1905, but there is no record of the exact date or place. Presumably it was in the store of the Great Northern Lumber Company which later served as the place of worship. It was located south of the railway tracks, and the new mission acquired two lots there, but this land was sold later when the church was built north of the tracks on its present site. St. Augustine, the apostle of England and Archbishop of Canterbury, was chosen as the patron of the mission. Father Rudolph Palm who had been ordained the preceding year, was given charge of Humboldt Mission, which included the present parish of St. Scholastica and Immaculate Conception Mission south of Carmel. It seems that he also went to Carmel several times to conduct services there. Even before Father Rudolph took charge about $1,000 was collected for the erection of a church. A report published in the St. Peter's Bote dated June 3, 1905 said that a post office was authorized for Humboldt and Godfrey Schaeffer was appointed the first post

On October 15, 1905 Father Rudolph celebrated Mass in the house of Mr. Leo Scheiber, Township 36, Range 22, and established a mission in that district. It was placed under the patronage of St. Scholastica, the twin sister of St. Benedict. On November 20, 1905 the first marriage took place in the church at Humboldt when Father Rudolph had the Nuptial Mass for Nicholas Schreiner and Pauline Dinges. A basket social held in St. Scholastica's Mission April 16, 1906. The parishioners decided to erect a frame church 20 x 40 feet during the course of the... by June 24 of that year the church was sufficiently completed that Father Rudolph held services in it. During the Mass 13 children of the Mission received their first Holy Communion. The debt incurred in building the church amounted to $50. On June 2, 1907 Bishop Pascal paid his first visit to the Mission. Mr. Loroff and Mr. Scheiber drove to Muenster that afternoon in two decorated carriages, conveying the Bishop and his assistants to the Mission. Some distance from the church they were met by a troup of horsemen who led them

Church of St. Augustine and Rectory in 1933, Huntsville.

Present enlarged Church of St. Augustine.

in procession to the Church, practically the entire parish gathered there to welcome the Bishop He encouraged and praised the people and told them how he had passed through this part of the country 33 years ago on his way to his Indian Mission. That time he travelled in an ox cart. The Bishop and his party spent the night in the home of Mr. Leo Scheiber and next morning, June 3, a Monday, the Bishop blessed the church and Mass in it assisted by Prior Bruno and [illegible] Rudolph. Prior Bruno delivered the sermon and the Bishop confirmed 19 members of the Mission Father Rudolph celebrated Mass in the Mission at the Immaculate Conception for the first time November 15 1906 In that district a considerable number of German settlers emigrating from Russia had taken up homesteads

After considerable difficulty the Catholic ratepayers of Humboldt were organized and preparations were made for the parochial school. At the general ratepayers meeting, October 15, 1906 Messrs. F Heidgerken, F I Hauser and Albert Ecker were elected trustees. On June 3, 1907 Bishop Pascal stopped here briefly, on the way to Fulda from St. Scholastica, and inspected the new separate school and the block of land Mr. Clement Koble had donated for the church site on the north side of the town During this time, from June 1, 1905 to October 1907 Father Rudolph was manager of the monastery farm as well as pastor of the mission at Humboldt St. Scholastica and Immaculate Conception, and resided at Muenster

Prior Bruno appointed Father Rudolph resident [illegible] of Humboldt October 5. 1907 and he continued to care for the missions of St Scholastica and the Immaculate Conception regularly, holding services at the latter place on week days The trustees of St Augustine's parish at this time were John Schaeffer. Michael Flory and Clement Koble Meanwhile the settlers of Carmel organized and began to build a church during the summer of 1908 and by July it was practically complete It was attended from Muenster by Father Boniface Puth O.S.B. as a mission from 1909 to 1912

On August 29. 1909. 80 members of the parish were confirmed by Bishop Pascal The same day he also blessed the separate school and the new parish house Mr Nicholas Britz, had brought him from Muenster in a decorated carriage and a large crowd of people had gathered to welcome him He had administered the sacrament of Confirmation and had preached at Muenster that morning

Bishop Pascal visited Humboldt again July 1, 1910. Prior Bruno celebrated a High Mass *coram pontifice* and the Bishop's assistants were Father Vincent Schiffrer, O. S. B. and Father Rudolph After Mass the bishop addressed the congregation and later blessed the 1500 lbs bell which Mrs. H J. Haskamp of Los Angeles, California, had donated Children and grandchildren of the generous lady stood as sponsors at the blessing of the bell On the day before, June 30, 1910, the Bishop dedicated the new church of the Immaculate Conception Mission. There Father Rudolph celebrated the Mass after the blessing and Prior Bruno preached in German. Mr A. Borget took the Bishop and the Fathers accompanying him back to Humboldt by car Mr H. W Haskamp was the first person to own an auto in St Peter's Colony, having purchased it in 1908.

Bishop Pascal paid his first official visit to Carmel on June 11 1910, arriving by car with Prior Bruno and Father Rudolph Shortly before 10:00 a.m. he blessed the church which was erected on an elevation northeast of town and dedicated it to Our Blessed Lady of Mount Carmel. After the dedication Father Rudolph celebrated High Mass and Prior Bruno praised the congregation for erecting such a neat church and exhorted them to continue to work for God and the good of their souls. The Bishop also addressed the faithful and gave his blessing.

The Third Katholikentag of the German Catholics was held in Humboldt August 9. 10, and 11. 1910, preparations being in the hands of Godfrey Schaeffer. Michael Flory, Albert Ecker, F. I Hauser and August Kruse. Visitors from all parts of St Peter's Colony, St. Joseph's Colony, Regina Vibank, Saskatoon and many other towns and districts arrived in Humboldt on August 9 They were received at the station by John Ecker, Joseph and S. Wigbers and conducted to the assembly hall

procession by Messers Ecker and the Wigbers on horseback, carrying banners and accompanied by the band from Hoodoo. Mr. Borget conveyed Bishop Pascal, Prior Bruno and Father Rudolph to the hall in his auto and later took them to the parish house. At four o'clock the first meeting

opened in the skating rink, which had been converted into a hall. Mr F J. Hauser was chairman, and Mr G. Schaeffer, Father Rudolph and Prior Bruno welcomed the visitors. Bishop Pascal responded and said that if he had not expended his energies as a missionary among the Indians in the Far North, he would, even at his advanced age try to learn the German language Present at the Convention besides the Benedictine Fathers Prior Bruno, Fathers Rudolph, Peter, Dominic, Matthias, Benedict, Chrysostom, Casimir, Bernard and Boniface were Fathers Kost O.M.I. Schweers, O.M.I. Schwebius, O.M.I. Francis Palm, O.M.I. from the St. Joseph's Colony, Fathers Habets, O. M. I. Schulte O.M.I. and Handrick O.M.I. from Winnipeg, Father J. Schelbert from Vibank, Fathers Minwegen, O.M.I., from Rosthern, Brabender O.M.I., from Saskatoon, Rapp, O.M.I., from Regina, and Joerissen, O.M.I., from Mary-Help Colony Most of them spoke and extended greetings from the German Catholics they represented also spoke Next morning, Bishop Pascal celebrated a solemn Pontifical High Mass in the convention hall in the presence of 20 priests and 2500 faithful, and Father Bernard delivered the

After the service a grand parade marched through the town, the Hoodoo band again furnishing music The ladies of the parish prepared the meals for the many visitors. In the evening Mr. O W Andreason mayor of Humboldt addressed the assembly and Mr. F J. Hauser thanked him for his kind words. On August 11 the Convention was opened by a low Mass in church after which Father Schweers gave a resume of the work that had been done Shortly before noon Bishop Pascal entered the hall and gave a fatherly address exhorting all to preserve and foster unity

Toward the end of October 1910 the parish decided to build a new and larger church for an estimated $20,000. to replace the present building which had become too small to serve the growing parish. By March 1911 stones for the foundation were already hauled. though excavation work was begun only in May 1912. In October the church was under roof and the contractors began construction of the tower. which was completed in May 1913 The first service to be held in the new church was a Requiem on June 19, 1913, for the deceased Mr. August Kruse. The preceding winter the ladies of the parish had contributed $4,000 for a beautiful stone altar. Other donations permitted the purchase of artistic windows from Munich, Bavaria, and for Stations of the Cross which cost $300. From July 6 to 13 Father George Scheffold, O.S.B., preached a mission in the church, and about 1200 members of the parish received Holy Communion during these

Bishop Pascal blessed the church on August 9, 1913. Before the dedication itself three low Masses were said in the church. At 10:00 o'clock the Bishop blessed the church and the main altar and then offered Pontifical High Mass. Prior Peter was assistant priest and preached the ser

Father E. Lacombe, O.M.I., of Delmas, Sask., deacon, Father William, chaplain of St Elizabeth's Hospital was subdeacon and Father Rudolph master of ceremonies. In spite of the unfavor

afternoon the Bishop blessed the statue of St Augustine and then addressed the congregation in English, praising them highly for cooperating so faithfully with their pastor After the sermon he administered the sacrament of confirmation to 98 persons including several adults

Bishop Pascal visited Humboldt again on Aug 3, 1916, to confirm 56 persons and bless the cemetery of the Sisters of St Elizabeth. north of town

June 23, 24, and 25, 1914 Humboldt host to another Katholikentag, wich was attended by about 3000 delegates in spite of unfavorable weather. Among them were Fathers Philip Funke, O.M.I., the general secretary, William Broeck, O M.I., from the Catholic Orphanage. Prince Albert Th. Schmid, Duck Lake, George Scheffold, O.S.B Wawota, Minn., L. Grochowski, O.M.I., Winn. P Habets O.M.I Windthorst Th Schweers O.M.I., Allan, Peter Bour, O.M.I., Winnipeg, B Ueberberg, O.M.I., Regina, Heinrich, Qu'Appelle Sons Melville Kim O.M.I., Holdfast and the Benedictine Fathers: Abbot Bruno, Prior Peter Fathers Lawrence, Casimir. Peter Fischer. Matthias, Chrysostom, Bernard, Benedict and Boniface Also present were Fathers A. Benoit administrator of the Diocese of Regina, A Auclair, editor of Patriote" of Prince Albert, J M Joly. St Pierre, Man. F Perquis. Vonda and D Gamache

of Kinoki, The Hon. W. F. A. Tourgeau, Attorney General of the Province and M.L.A. of the ... stituency of Humboldt arrived in a special ... with delegates from Regina. Almost all districts of the Colony were well represented. Mr. F. I. Hauser was chairman of the convention and Mr. Powers Deputy Mayor of Humboldt extended a hearty welcome. Bishop Pascal attended and expressed his joy at being present in the following words: "When I see you before me, I look upon you as my children. I am your father, the father of all my subjects, no matter what language you speak, be it German, English, French or any other tongue. I am glad to be with you and call myself with predilection: The Bishop of the Germans. Fight the good fight for your rights, for your schools for your families, for your faith."

Mr. Hauser, Fathers Funke, Peter, Bonifatius Scheffold, O.S.B., and Mr. Alfred Vonnegut of Winnipeg addressed the convention. Abbot Bruno spoke about the usefulness of a Catholic library. "A good book," he said, "is a good friend, but a bad book is a curse." On June 24 Bishop Pascal celebrated Pontifical High Mass assisted by Father Benoit as Presbyter assistant. Fathers Melowoski and Th. Schmidt as deacon and subdeacon, and Father George Scheffold delivered the sermon. On June 25 Father Boniface Heidermann, O.F.M., of Edmonton, celebrated a Solemn Requiem High Mass for the deceased members of the Volksverein, assisted by Fathers Brun and Ueberberg, and Father George again delivered the sermon. After dinner on June 24 all the men present marched in parade through the town, and the convention again met in the skating rink. Mr. Hauser summed up the work done in the final meeting of the Katholikentag, after which the Te Deum was sung, and the convention adjourned.

In 1915 Father Rudolph asked to be relieved of his charge because of ill health and in March he was appointed pastor of St. Benedict. Father Bene... was named pastor of Humboldt. A financial report issued by Father Benedict in March of 918 showed that the parish had reduced its debt the preceding year from $14,253 to $12,105, despite the fact that the heating system had been installed in the church that year and the basement of the church had been connected with the drainage system of the town. The year before this the debt had been reduced $2,848. The number of ratepayers in 1917 was 169. Messrs. F. I. Hauser, John Schaefter and J. W. Burton were trustees.

Father Benedict also attended Immaculate Conception Mission. He had a rather upsetting experience in 1919. While on the way to a sick parishioner his team bolted and galloped down the ... turning so suddenly into a farmyard that Father Benedict feared for his life. He jumped from the conveyance safely, but suffered such a shock that he had to be taken to the hospital. No... months he had to give up all pastoral work and Fathers Fridolin and Peter attended Humboldt.

Muenster, and on July 25, 1920, Prior Peter announced that Father Dominic had been appointed pastor.

Father Dominic was a man of wide pastoral experience. He had been assistant priest at Assumption Parish, St. Paul, Minn., had organized the parishes of Annaheim and Lake Lenore, and had been in charge of Sacred Heart Parish, Watson for ...

He soon recognized that St. Augustine's Parish needed a new rectory which would be a credit to the expanding congregation and large enough for a future assistant priest with room for visitors, since Humboldt had developed into a ... center. A new railway line from Humboldt to Melfort had been opened in 1921. In February 921 the parish decided to build the new house. A census taken of the parish at this time showed 80 families, and 1000 parishioners, besides 38 Catholic Ruthenian families. By August the parish house was nearing completion. The old parish house was sold to Mr. Stokes and moved on March 18, 1922 by means of seven sleighs, five of which were torn to pieces in the operation.

The Knights of Columbus were established Humboldt on October 8, 1917 when 50 local candidates were initiated at a ceremony in which about 200 delegates from Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Battleford participated. The chief organizer was Mr. J. J. Leddy of Saskatoon. At the banquet Father Sinnett of Sinnett and Father Daly of Regina spoke, and Dr. J. L. Barry ... chosen Grand Knight with Mr. F. I. Hauser as Deputy Grand Knight. In March 1922, the Knights of Columbus, Humboldt Council, donated the beautiful statue of "Christ in the Grave" to St. Augustine's Church. The statue is a master

piece and is exposed annually beneath the side altar during the last three days of Holy Week

In 1921 Father Domunc secured the services of Father Daniel O'Sullivan of Muenster to deliver a series of Lenten sermons to the parishioners Humboldt From that time on Father O'Sullivan was a familiar figure there. (Father O'Sullivan, a of culture and learning was a secular priest and ordained in Iceland He taught for a time at St Peter's College, and later was chaplain Manitoba hospital. Father Joseph Sittenauer also assisted Father Domine periodically)

Father Domunc celebrated his silver jubilee of priesthood August 8, 1922, at a solemn High Mass assisted by Father Alfred Meyer as assistant priest Fathers Gregory Steil, O.S.B., and Leonard Kaps ner O.S.B. as deacon and subdeacon. Abbot Michael was assisted by Fathers Lawrence and Joseph Sittenauer. Father Alfred, the founder of St Peter's Colony, was at this time the Prior of St John's Abbey of which Fathers Gregory and Leo nard were members. Father Leonard was a class mate of Father Domunc's. Father Alfred delivered the jubilee sermon in English and German. After High Mass the Knights of Columbus and the Chris tian Mothers offered their good wishes and sentations to the jubilarian

From October 28 to November 4, 1923 Fa thers Max Kassiepe, O.M.I., and A. H Rosen thal, O.M.I., preached a mission, the former han ing the German sermons in the church, the latter the English in the basement. In June 1924 Father D J. Moriarty, O.M.I., preached another mission and Abbot Michael conducted a retreat for the young ladies Sodality, from May 14 to 16, 1925

The Separate School in Humboldt opened the school year, September 1925, with an enrollment of more than 200 children. The parishioners be gan to make plans for a larger school

January 1 1926, Abbot Michael celebrate Pontifical High Mass in St Augustine's Church Since Humboldt was an important center, he wished that it should have a share services. Prior Peter was assistant priest, Fathers Dominic and Leonard were deacons of honor and Fathers Paul and Francis deacon and subdeacon The collection taken up on that day was assigned the Scholarship of the Sacred Heart a scholar ship for the education of priests for St Peter's Colon The Jubilee Year proclaimed by the Holy Father began on that day

The Catholic Women's League was organized St Augustine's Parish June 4, 1926, and the following were the first officials Mrs Jos. Schultis president, Mrs. Max Bauer, first vice-president Mrs Archie Power, second vice-president, Mrs Aug. Lutz, third vice-president, Mrs. A. M Kelly, treasurer, Mrs. A. J Kruse, secretary, Mrs. J Platzer Miss Nellie O'Brien and Miss E Hauser councillors. The League celebrated its 25th versary on June 3, 1951 and seven charter mem bers were present: Mrs. Max Bauer, Mrs. Leo Flory, Mrs. A. J. Kruse, Mrs J McAneely, Mrs J Platzer Mrs Clara Schaeffer and Mrs. Arnold Schmitz. Father Aloysius was chairman of the jubi lee celebration and Father Engelbert Paradis, O F.M. the guest speaker, traced the history of the League in Canada Mrs. Kruse added the informa tion that Miss Lefle Guerin of Montreal was the foundress, and recounted how the League was established in the territory of the Abbey Nullius Mrs. J J Dugan of Edmonton aided in the establishment of the first subdivision and how other subdivisions were formed at Bruno, Watson, and Cudworth in 1927 Prior Peter represented Fa ther Abbot who was absent in Eastern Canada

The Confraternity of the Christian Mothers was established in St. Augustine's Parish in 1906 and celebrated its silver jubilee November 11, 1931 Abbot Severin was present and Father Rudolph sang a solemn High Mass with Fathers Benedict and Stephen as deacon and subdeacon Father Rudolph reviewed the work accomplished by the Christian Mothers in the past 25 years, and Abbot Severin admitted new members. In his address he remind ed them that "the power of a good Christian Mother is unlimited." Thirty seven members of th parish joined the Confraternity at its founding in 1906 The following officials were elected: Mrs Mich. Flory, president Mrs. Fred Hedgecken, vice president and Mrs Carl Schmidt secretary-trea During the 25 years at least 34 Christian Mothers were called to their reward. The Con fraternity aided the church in many ways it con tributed $300 to the building fund, purchased the artistic window of St Elizabeth the electric lights for the main altar the statue of the Sacred Heart the golden vestments the altar in the basement the bes in the sacristy candlesticks etc The Christ n Mothers hold their meetings monthly,

the First Friday of the month they received Holy Communion in a body, and after the Mass on this day they had a spiritual conference from the pastor

a position to join the teaching staff of the separate school. At first only three sisters ible, Mr E. LeBlanc remained principal, and lay teacher was engaged. Today the school is entirely under the direction of the Sisters. It has to such an extent that 12 Sisters are required including three who take care of dence, which was purchased from Mr O W Anderson in 1926

In June of 1929 construction began on a C.P.R. line from Lanigan to Prince Albert via Humboldt In September the rails reached Humboldt and on September 30 1930. the line for passenger service. The town of Humboldt declared a holiday and gave a banquet in honor of Mr E W Beatty. President of the Canadian Pacific Railway. that

On December 8, 1930 St Augustine's parish celebrated its silver jubilee Father Rudolph, the first pastor. celebrated the public solemn High Mass with Father Benedict, the second pastor, as deacon, and Father Domine, the third pastor, as subdeacon. Abbot Severin preached in German and English. In the evening a program of speaches and music was held in the Knights of Columbus hall.

March 31, 1930, His Excellency, Viscount Willingdon, the Governor General of Canada and Lady Willingdon visited Humboldt The visitors ed by special train at 2:00 P.M., on the tation of Mr A. F Totzke, then the Member of Parliament for the constituency of Humboldt They were met at the station by Mayor Crawley and the Town Council, the officials of the Rural Municipality of Humboldt, the Canadian Legion, the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides and an immense crowd of people. From the station the party proceeded to the public school where the children of the town and district were assembled Then they were taken to St Elizabeth Hospital where they were received by Abbot Severin, Mother Superioress Seraphina, the Sisters and student nurses. They visited many of the patients and had a word of consolation for all Everyone was much impressed by the friendliness of the visitors They stayed longer at the hospital than their schedule allowed so that instead of arriving at the town hall at 3:00 they reached it at 3:20. The hall was packed, and because of the shortness of the time the speeches had to be abreviated. The students of St Peter's College were present

July 10, 1932, Father Gregory Gasser celebrated his first solemn High Mass at Humboldt. He had been ordained June 29 by Bishop Prud'homme of Prince Albert in the Cathedral at Muenster. The newly ordained priest was conducted in procession to the Church with the Knights of Columbus as at honor. At Mass he was assisted by Father Augustine as deacon, Father Aloysius as subdeacon, nd Father Dominic as assistant priest In the sanctuary were Abbot Severin Prior Peter. Fathers Hilary Doerfler O.S.B. (a brother of the deceased Abbot Bruno), Joseph Steiger of Earling, Iowa, Alphonse, Subprior Joseph Sittenauer and Benedict Father Peter delivered the sermon in German and Father Joseph in English. In the afternoon the new priest officiated at solemn Vespers and Father Steiger, in a sermon, related his experiences at the exorcisms performed over a girl in his parish. She had been possessed for twelve years and after 23 days the Capuchin Father Theophilus Riesinger succeeded in expelling the evil spirits. The power over the devil, Father Steiger said, is given to the Catholic priest at his ordination. After Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament Father Gregory gave his blessing to the people individually

Father James Patrick Murphy of Regina, ordained on April 2, 1949, offered his second solemn High Mass here on April 10, in the church where he had been an altar boy Fathers Wilfrid and Paul were deacon and subdeacon and Abbot Severin preached the sermon Present were his mother and other relatives from Regina. Father Murphy is the son of Mrs. and the late Mr. Vincent Murphy, who practiced law in Humboldt, and drowned in July 1935 Later that year the family moved to Regina. In the evening a public reception was held in the Knights of Columbus hall, where Mr. Henry Keen read an illuminated address and Father Aloysius offered Father Murphy a purse in behalf of the parishioners Father Murphy thanked all and expressed his happiness to be in his boyhood home

On July 29, 1947, St Augustine's Parish cel

ebrated the Golden ubilee of Father Dominic Father Dominic was then 73 years old and in poor health. He was assisted to the outdoor altar which had been erected on the west side of the separate

S.B., a member of Mt. Angel Abbey, Oregon, was deacon and Father Paul subdeacon. Abbot Severin present in Cappa Magna, assisted by Fathers Peter and Leonard, Father Florian was master of ceremonies and Father George directed the choir of Mary choir. About 1600 attended the ser including many from Annaheim, Lake Lenore Watson, Eneefield, Muenster, Marysburg, Carmel Bruno and other parishes of the Colony. In his sermon Father Abbot stressed the dignity of the priesthood. The proper soil for good priests, he said families and if priestly vocations parish are lacking, there must be something wrong with the families. The ladies of the parish prepared dinner in the Arena. There St. Augustine's parish congratulated the jubilarian. All the parishes which Father Dominic had founded or served had representatives present and the children of of parish participated in the program. Father Dominic thanked all the participants in the festivities, noting that the honors shown to priests were really given to God who chooses mortal men to represent Him on earth.

In 1936 the Humboldt Separate School District constructed a new school west of the Church. The plans were drawn up by the architects V Egmond and Storey, Regina, and in charge of the Pool Construction Co., Regina. The cost of the 80 x 72 two storey building housing six classrooms, was over $30,000. The trustees were: F. I. Hauser, Fred Heidgerken (both trustees for the past 30 years), J. J. Gaetz, Max Bauer, and P. H. Thiessen. The school was blessed by Abbot Severin, October 25, 1936. That after the entire congregation assembled in church and after the preliminary prayers proceeded to the school where the flag was blessed and hoisted while the children saluted and sang the national anthem. Each classroom was then blessed, and little Julia Lachmuth read a short illuminated address. After this all returned to the church where Father Abbot explained the significance of the blessing. The next day the school was officially opened and Mr. O. R. Hutchings, the Inspector of Schools, and Dr. J. H. McKechnie, Deputy Minister of Education for Saskatchewan, addressed the children. Rose Mary Platzer, a Grade One pupil presented the keys of the school to Mr. McKechnie. In the evening a civic celebration took place in the town hall. Speakers were: Mr. S. M. Sutherland mayor of Humboldt, Mr. G. R. Hutchings, Inspector of Schools, Mr. F. S. Lucas, principal of the Separate School, Mr. E. LeBlanc, principal of Humboldt Collegiate Institute, Father Dominic, Dr. J. C. King, M.L.A., representing Humboldt, Dr. J. H. McKechnie, Deputy Minister of Education, and Abbot Severin. Mr. Hauser was chairman and musical selections were interspersed between the speeches.

Humboldt's growth has been so rapid that within a decade the six classrooms were overcrowded. The enrollment increased from 184 in 1936 to 273 in 1951 and by September 1952 it was 286. The smallest number of pupils in any room was 33 and the largest 48. At a meeting of the ratepayers in the fall of 1951 it was agreed that more classroom space was needed, and Messrs. W. G. Van Egmond and Stan E. Storey were again consulted. Mr. Storey submitted a plan for an addition to the north of the present building to harmonize with the existing structure, containing four classrooms at an estimated cost of $70,000.

In 1943 Father Dominic's health began to decline. In response to his request for assistance on Sundays and Holydays Father Philip was sent from the Abbey, and other Fathers who assisted for a time were Fathers Paul, George, Florian and Ro-

Father George assisted in Humboldt for over a year and arranged for three Masses on Sundays and Holydays. He was in charge of the arrangements for Father Dominic's jubilee, June 29, 1947. Father Prior Peter assisted Father Dominic on all the principal feasts of the Ecclesiastical year: Christmas, Easter, All Saints, for more than twenty years. In September 1947 Father George was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Watson, and Father Aloysius succeeded him in Humboldt, first as administrator, and after the death of Father Dominic, January 27, 1950 as pastor. Since November 1947 Father Roman has been the regular weekend assistant at St. Augustine's Church.

Because of the steady increase in the population of Humboldt the church built in 1912 under Father Rudolph's administration, which seated 408 became too small, so in the summer of 1949 the

parish decided to enlarge it. By August a building fund of $20,000 had been gathered and M. Arnold Stadelmann received the contract to add a new section to the north end. The bulky pillars were replaced with pillars of steel and other alterations made. Construction did not interfere with divine service. In the spring of 1951 the big task was finished and the new section, also of brick, harmonizes with the old church. The church now seats over 700. The basement, extending the full length of the church, contains the oil heating furnace and is a modern convention hall.

A new frame church for the Ruthenian Catholics was erected in Humboldt in 1950 south of the railroad. Before it was built a priest of that rite visited Humboldt periodically and held service in St. Augustine's Church while on other Sundays and Holy days they attended Mass in the Latin rite.

In recording the principal events in the history of St. Augustine's Parish no mention was made of the dates of confirmation since 1913. As a rule confirmation is administered by the Bishop every three years. On Pentecost Sunday, June 1, 1952, Abbot Severin confirmed 213 members of the parish. In his sermon he told the parishioners that over 1900 years ago the Holy Ghost visibly descended upon 120 persons; now He would descend invisibly upon almost the same number. Since the beginning of St. Peter's Colony, he said, the Holy Ghost had been working in a most evident manner, and he appealed strongly for prayer and sacrifice to obtain priestly and religious vocations. He expressed regret that after 49 years, appeals for this purpose still had to be made.

Miss Agnes Schmidt, now Sister Marianna of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth, was the first young lady of the parish to enter a religious order, and also the first of St. Peter's Colony to join the new community. Other young ladies who entered that order from the parish of Humboldt are Sisters Augustine Mauser, Colleta Kloppenburg, M. Rosa Kloppenburg, Valeria Scheiber, Annuntiata Feltin and Mary Kloppenburg, Valeria Scheiber and Annuntiata Feltin.

Post Church of St. Boniface

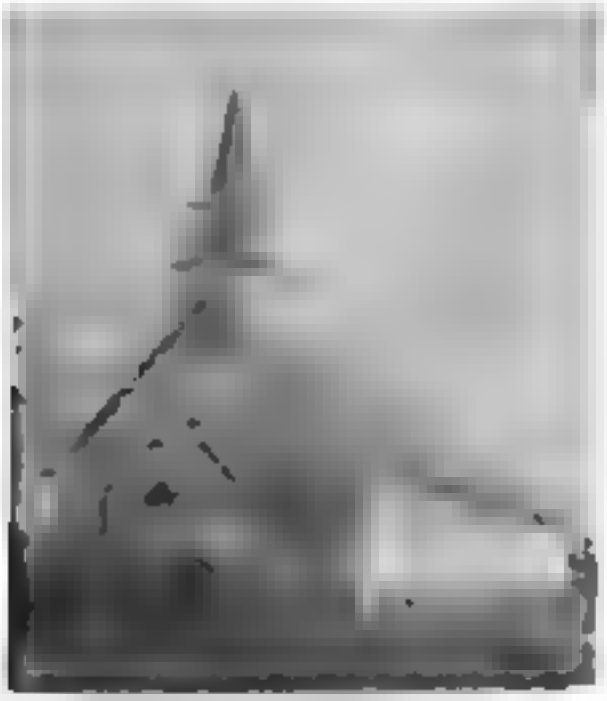
St. Scholastica

As already mentioned, Father Rudolph founded St. Scholastica's Mission south of Humboldt on October 15, 1905, and attended it once a month until March 19 5 when he was transferred to St Benedict. Thereafter Father Benedict had charge of the Mission until 1920 Father Marcellus stationed in Bruno, attended it until 1921 and parishioners donated an auto, so that he could mission more conveniently. In July 1921 Father Matthew took over the Missions and received the car The first High Mass celebrated in St Scholastica's Mission occurred on August 27, 19 the day on which a number of the children received their First Holy Communion. Father Matthew celebrated the High Mass, Father Ignatius Croll, O.S.B., played the organ, and the Clerics of St. Peter's Abbey sang. The people were so joyed that there were tears in some eyes. That afternoon the children were taken to the banks of Stoney Lake for a picnic

The church proving too small, a new one was erected in 1923 Father Joseph Stiennauer celebrated the first Mass in the new church, August 5 though it was not quite finished, while Father Matthew was in the United States on a short visit to his home Before this date, while the old church was being razed and the new one in the process of erection, Mass was celebrated beneath the roof of the old church, the congregation attending in the open. An organ was hauled three miles from the home of Mr. Peter Klassen and the choir of the Mission sang beautifully There were 30 families in the Mission. The visiting priest always found a hospitable welcome in the home of Mr Peter Klas

Regular services were held in the new church from November 4 1923 and it was blessed by Abbot Michael July 4, 1924, assisted by Father Charles Cannon, O.S.B., and Father Matthew. After the High Mass sung by Father Matthew Father Abbot administered confirmation In his sermon he expressed joy at the cooperation the parishioners had shown in erecting such a nice church On October 18, 1925, first Holy Communion was administered to 25 children. A number of visitors from other parishes attended, and the church was filled to capacity, reminding the

extended the good wishes of the



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[illegible]

The church built in 1923 becoming too small it was considerably enlarged in 942, and in 1952 the basement was enlarged and renovated

The following young ladies of the parish have joined religious communities: Sisters Mary Gertrude Blanch, M. Giles Blanch, M. Michael Blanch Clare Marie Koppes, Eugenia Koppes, Immaculata Saretsky, Leonardine Novecosky Caecilia Klassen Genevieve Novecosky Zita Pocher, M. Ruth Poc-

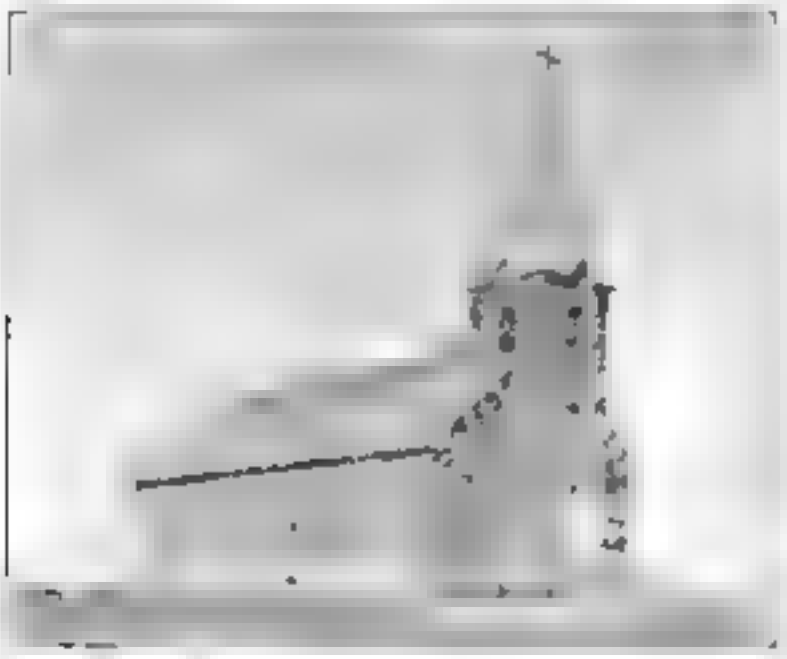
Immaculate Conception

The first Mass in the Mission of the Immaculate Conception, south of Carmel, was celebrated by Father Rudolph on Thursday, November 15 1906 and on June 30, 1910, Bishop Pascal blessed the church which had been constructed near the house of Mr. Froese. Father Rudolph and Father Benedict, as pastors of Humboldt, visited the Mission frequently, usually on week days. After the parish house was completed at Carmel in 1923 Father Matthew was able to arrange service more regularly at the Mission. As an example of the intense activity Father Matthew was called upon to exercise the following may be recorded. On November 1, 1924, the Feast of All Saints, a Saturday Father Matthew celebrated his first Mass at St Scholastica's Church, followed by a High Mass at Carmel where after Mass the Blessed Sacrament was exposed until evening. The next day, Sunday he celebrated his first Mass at Carmel followed by a High Mass at the Mission of the Immaculate Conception, where also there was exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until evening. November 3 All Souls Day that year, Father Matthew said the first Mass at the church of the Immaculate Conception the second one, a High Mass at Carmel, and the third Mass, also a High Mass at St Scholastica. Immediately after the third Mass he hurried on a sick call to the bedside of a 90 year old lady. It was 10 o'clock in the evening before he found time to eat his breakfast. That evening he baptized Edward Saretsky infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Saretsky. In each of the three places almost every parishioner had gone to confession and to Holy Communion. About the same schedule was in store for Father Matthew on All Saints Day and All Souls Day in 1925 and 1926. Christmas Day

was spent in the three parishes demanded even great sacrifices, since the condition of the roads and the winter cold had to be contended with.

Although the Mission of the Immaculate Conception at that time was composed of only 22 families, they erected a new church on Section 4, township 37, range 24, 75 x 35 feet, under the direction of Father Matthew. Anton Stadelmann of Engelfeld was the contractor of this beautiful frame church covered with brick veneer, the only one of its kind in the colony. A considerable fund had been gathered before construction began and much of the labor was donated by the parishioners, with the result that no debts had been incurred. Prior Peter blessed the church July 25, 1926. He sang the solemn High Mass assisted by Father Matthew as deacon and subdeacon. At that time the church seemed too large for the congregation, but the parishioners had built for the future. However on the day of the dedication it was filled to capacity.

Twenty five years later, August 5, 1951, the Mission of the Immaculate Conception celebrated the silver jubilee of its dedication. Again a large congregation assembled for the solemn High Mass offered by Prior Peter assisted by Fathers Wilfrid Norbert. Prior Peter preached in English and German and enumerated some of the many graces which the faithful had received in their church during its twenty five years of existence. He asked them to look upon their church as the most sacred spot in the Mission and urged them to pray for much needed vocations to the priesthood. After Mass dinner was served in the church basement. The first trustees of the Mission were John Fo[illegible]owsky, Fred Kosokowsky and Gottlieb Witt. At the time of the jubilee the trustees were John



Church of Immaculate Conception

First Church of Immaculate Conception

Beschoonsky, Valentine Froese and Nicholas Witt. The number of families in the Mission has increased to 36. In 1927 a bell weighing 1000 lbs. was purchased and blessed by Abbot Severin June 2, 1927. On that occasion Father Abbot preached at the High Mass celebrated by Father Matthew and told the congregation what message the bell has for the people of a parish.

Father Matthew attended the Mission of the Immaculate Conception until the latter part of September 1927, when he was appointed rector of St. Peter's College. He was succeeded as pastor of Carmel and Conception by Father Stephen who for the next twelve years, took great interest in improving and beautifying the Mission as well as the pilgrimage spot of Mount Carmel. August 19, 1928 Abbot Severin confirmed 20 children at the Mission. Father Stephen sang the High Mass and Father Atanasius assisted Abbot Severin at the throne. On September 21, 1931 Father Abbot confirmed 25 children the day of their solemn communion and Father Matthew, their former pastor, sang the High Mass.

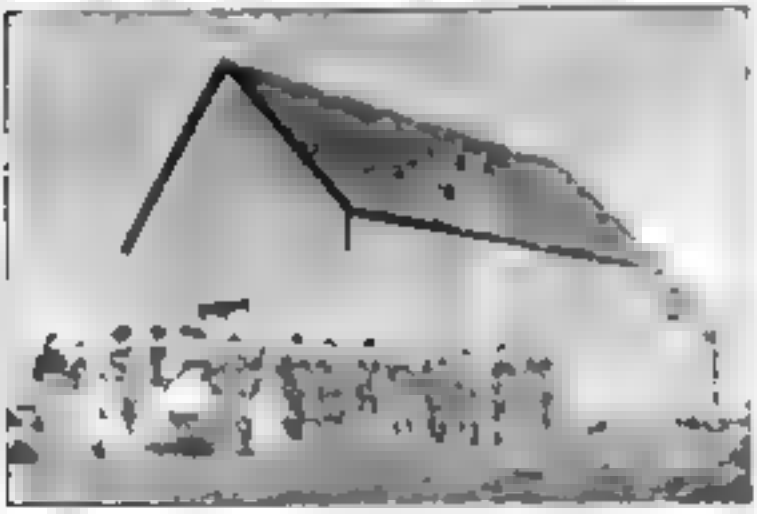
In September 1939 Father Stephen was named pastor of Engelfeld and Father Alphonse succeeded him as pastor of Carmel and the Mission of the Immaculate Conception. He remained there [illegible] before. September 7, 1948

Carmel

Father Rodolph and the first Holy Mass at the Carmel district at the home of John Weber in the southeast quarter of section 12, township 38, range 24, about three and one half miles northeast of the present town of Carmel, probably in the spring of 1908. The exact date could not be ascertained. The first marriage solemnized at Carmel was that of Peter Wolf and Theresia Weber, June 5, 1910, Father Boniface officiating. On May 16, 1910, John Haupt was buried, the Requiem being sung by Father Boniface. The first Carmel choir consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Kosse, Mr. and Mrs. John Weber, Eugene Hemmerer Sr. Mr. and Mrs. Ben. Reicchle and Otto Lutz, while Mrs. Henry Engele was the first organist.

Father Boniface attended the Carmel Mission from Muenster between 1909 and 1912. The church was built on a little knoll northwest of the town, and blessed by Bishop Pascal June 15, 1910. In 1917 a building was erected near the church to serve as a residence for the teacher of the parochial school, Miss Catherine Dorthelm. Father George Scheffold, O.S.B., preached a mission at Carmel July 1 to 4, 1915. Father Bernard, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Watson, visited Carmel from 1912 to 1915 once a month, and from 1915 [illegible] Father Joseph Wickel, pastor of Engelfeld, came once a month. On December 4, 1919 a member of Carmel Mission wrote to Muenster that "Sunday, November 30, was a memorable day for the parish of Carmel, as on that day our pastor, Father Joseph, visited his parish for the last time officially. During the four years that Father Joseph had charge of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church the parish has made remarkable progress both spiritually and financially. In order that Carmel might receive services oftener Father Joseph interceded with Abbot Michael, and he was kind enough to give the parish of Carmel semimonthly service thereafter. Father Fridolin has been appointed [illegible] pastor." Father Fridolin, however, did not long attend to Carmel, for he was appointed pastor of Watson in July 1920. Father Marcellus, who assisted Father Leo at Bruno at the time, was named the new pastor of Carmel. A year later, July 1921 Father Marcellus was replaced by Father Matthew, who also took charge of St. Scholastica's mission and the Mission of the Immaculate Conception.

Bishop Pascal visited Carmel the last time on August 12, 1914, to confirm 22 young members of the parish, and Abbot Michael administered Confirmation on October 10, 1920 to 73 children from Carmel and 20 from Immaculate Conception. Many of the faithful found no room in the church for the service, a sign that the church was



Ruins of Central Church in the early days

Manse where were first held, south of Central in Cassadaga Parish

parish. In the parish school at
ent had reached 70. When Miss
Helen Kopp and Mary Kopp of Muenster

as time went on it was found that the pla
which the church had been built, the little
knoll north of the railway, was entirely too small

1921 at which Prior Peter and Father Leo were present, the parishioners decided that the church be moved to a parcel of land, donated for the purpose, favorably located south of the railway a quite close to the town and the main
Koob of Bruno was given the contract to move the buildings to the new site. Within a month the work was completed so that Mass could be said the new site September 25, 1921.

With the coming of Father Matthew Carmel was raised to the rank of a parish with a resident pastor. A new parish house, close to the church was completed during the late summer of 1923. I however, no bed of roses on which the new past
Carmel could rest. This is part of a letter he to a confrere in April 1927, "I have made many a trip by day and by night, none of them however, can be compared to my trip last Sunday April 3 on horseback. You accompanied me once hen I went by auto through the wild c
ountry from St. Scholastica to Conception. Hereu
e idea of the lay of the land and can imagine how I fared. I left Carmel at 5 o'clock in the morning and returned again in t
It seemed as though all the snow from the treeless prairie around Carmel had been blown into t
bush country to the south. In many places ther
on top and water below. Repeatedly my horse broke through and at one time as it sank down to its belly it fell to its side, and horse
ter lay in the morass. Each time it tried to
t sank in deeper and I had a hard time to
and pull it out. On the way home I had to dismount at least a dozen times and lead the poor animal by the bridle. My feet and legs were
By the time I reached home the cold had penetrated into my whole body and caused a feeling, as if it had been 40 degrees below zero. To my
e did not catch a cold. It also was a hard trip for the poor horse. It had bled badly ever before I reached St. Scholastica, because in the morning all was ice and frozen ground and the snow was cover

To give more room to the increasing number of parishioners, extensive alterations were made in the interior of the church during the year 1928 under the direction of Father Stephen, Father Matthew's successor. A parish hall was erected cl to the church in 1929. Father Stephen embellished the grounds and the cemetery at Carmel by planting trees and shrubs in his spare time. In addition ending the parish of Carmel and the Mission of the Immaculate Conception, Father Ste also visited St. John's Mission, outside of the Colony at the request of the Bishop of Prince Albert. On September 25, 1933 Bishop Prud'hom me of Prince Albert visited St. John's church and conferred confirmation on about 50 children. The Bishop preached in English and Father Bernard in

August 12, 1928, was a solemn day for the parish of Carmel. At 9:40 Father Stephen celebrated a High Mass at which Father Joseph preached English and German and 20 children made their solemn Communion. In the afternoon Abbot Severin arrived and was met by 20 men on horseback who accompanied him over two miles and conducted him to the church. There he confirmed 27 children of the parish, assisted by Fathers Lawrence, Bernard and Alowsius. Father Abbot spoke to the congregation about the gifts of the Holy Ghost and the graces He works in the souls of the confirmed. On August 30, 1930 Father Abbot gain visited the parish. A troup of 12 horsemen met him and conducted his auto to the church. At the High Mass he was assisted by Fathers Stephen and Alowsius. A number of children received their solemn Communion at the Mass and Abbot Severin preached on the value of Communion. In the afternoon he blessed the 1000 lbs. bell at which the trustees of the parish acted as sponsors. The name of the bell is "Severinus." The Abbot again addressed the congregation, explaining the message a bell gives to the congregation.

When Father Stephen was transferred to Engelfeld in September 1939 Father Alphonse was appointed pastor. During his pastorate a new church 74 x 42 feet was erected in 1947. Plans were drawn up by a Saskatoon architect and construction was in charge of William Ludwig of Bruno. Prior Pete

Present Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

blessed the church October 3, 1947 assisted by Fa
s Paul and George, who were also deacon and
on at the solemn High Mass Vernon Engele
master of ceremonies and Father Alphonse
directed the choir In his sermon Father Pet
vale briefly on the history of Our Lady of M
Carmel Parish, calling to mind two of the deceased
pastors, Fathers Rudolph and Boniface, and
prayers He also spoke briefly of the ceremonies of
the blessing of a church. He congraculated Fath
Alphonse and the parishioners on the beautiful
hurch they had erected. The large basement was
adies of the parish served dinner
Father Alphonse was in charge of the paris

St Benedict and Father Theodor
n September 1948. Two years later the
Ursuline Nuns of Bruno took over the Carme
school At first they attended the school

God has shown His special love for the ch
sh of Carmel and the Mission of Conception
He has chosen eight young ladies to
state Sisters Delphina Berschmansky (from Con
ception) Pulcheria Poth, Raphaela Reineke, Lau
ncia Hepp Edwina Hepp and Rita Berthold
Theodora and Fidelis Reineke. The last three join
ed the Ursulines in Bruno, while the other
ve became members of the Sisters of St Eliza
beth in Humboldt Two sons of Carmel Parish
have become priests. Father Philip Engele, O M.
brother, Father Alfred Engele, O.S.B
ather Philip Engele made his classical studies
at St Peter's College, joined the Oblates and
was ordained priest on June 13 1942 by Bish
op Langlois, O. M. I. at Battleford, Saskatch
He celebrated his first Mass at Carmel June
5, at an altar erected outdoors Father J. Wallise
O.M.I., was assistant priest and delivered the
Fathers Matthew and Wilfrid were deacon
nd subdeacon, and Abbot Severin assisted in
capa Magna The entire choir organist and
gers, were composed of members of the fa
the celebrant Mr. and Mrs Henry Engele and
their sons an daughters In the afternoon Father
Engele officated at the Corpus Christi pro
Four relatives of the new priest Michael Henr
Albert and Roman Engele carried the canopy In
he evening the children of three schools Highgate
Gertrude and Carmel entertained the visitors and
Father Alphonse congratulated the newly ordained

Father Alfred Engele, O.S.B., was ord
n June 4, 1944 by Bishop Reginald Duprat. O.P
of Prince Albert in St Peter's Cathedral, and cel
brated his first Solemn High Mass on June 11 on
Mt Carmel His brother, Father Philip Engele, was
deacon Father Florian was subdeacon and Father
Alphonse was assistant priest. Abbot Severin was pre
sent in Capa Magna and delivered the
He was assisted by Brothers Dominic Dietel, O.S.B
and Norbert Hasenmueller, O.S.B. Father Matthew
pastor of Carmel, also addressed the
n. After the High Mass the newly ordained
priest carried the Blessed Sacrament in procession
around the mount. Many people from the Colon
attended the solemnity Another son, the younges
of Mr and Mrs Henry Engele, Vernon, is p
ing for the priesthood in St Charles Scholasticate
North Battleford

Parish of St. Gregory

Bruno, January 27, 1907, a day on which the thermometer registered 36 degrees below s the only parish personally founded by Pri Bruno. He celebrated Mass in the store of Mr. A despite the cold. After Mass a meeting was held J. Ries, at which about 50 persons were present the following trustees were elected: A. J. Ries, Zachariah Trueby and John Binsfeld. It was decid ed to erect a church as soon as possible, which would serve as a school during the week days. The of $250 was subscribed immediately and Prior ino promised that there would be Mass once a month at first, a priest driving from Muenster Father Peter was appointed first pastor of the Early in spring the parishioners began to frame church and until its completion Mass was celebrated in Mr. Ries store the last time on June 23, 1907. On that day Father Peter urged the little flock to ready the church sufficiently so that next morning a wedding could take place in it. His appeals were not in vain. At 5 o'clock on the morning of June 24, 26 men, equipped with hammers, saws and brooms, came to the unfinished church. They laid the floor, cleaned up and built a primitive altar in time for the service. The bridal couple Killian Stollenwerk and Catherine Foulke

Father Peter in Mr. Ries' home, a few miles northeast of the present town, on the afternoon of June 23. The church was filled as the settlers from the adjoining country attended this first their new church. Father Peter spoke to the congregation about the blessings that Holy Mother Church had in store for them. The patron chosen for the new church was St. Gregory, the Great, the first Benedictine Pope, who died in 604. The first baptism recorded was that of Anthony Zimmermann, by Father Matthias, on July 21, 1907.

At a meeting December 8, 1907 at which Father Peter presided, a parish school was organized. Messrs. Karl Morschenhofer, Martin Plemel and Nicholas Ackermann were elected trustees, and Miss Frank Plemel engaged as teacher. Every household leader was assessed $10 for the support of the school. School was officially opened in the church

quent monthly visits the parish could have a High

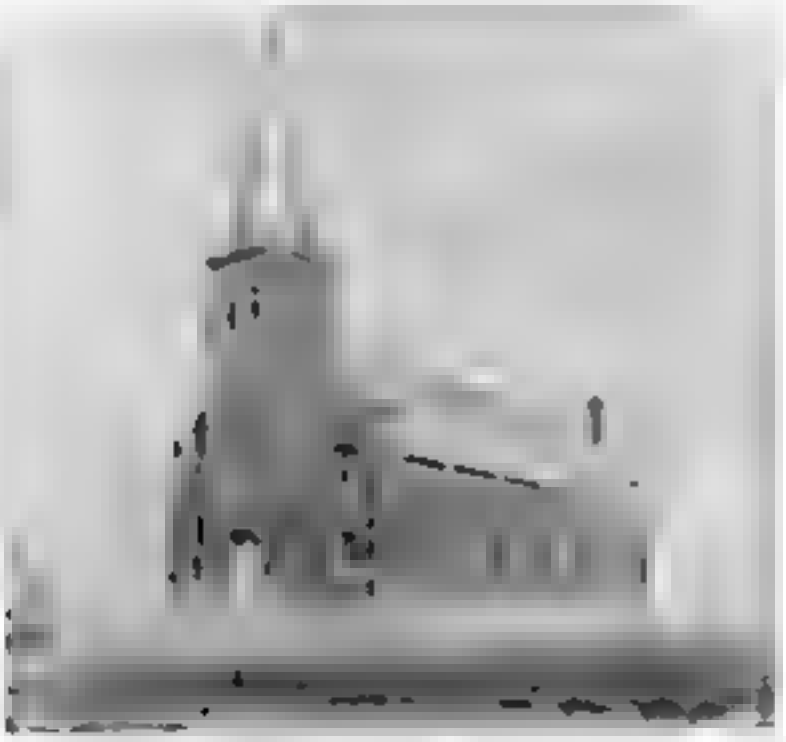
communion on October 13, 1908. They had gone to Muenster by horse and buggy for their instruction. In 1908 St. Gregor had a chapel

on December, 1908. Father Peter was replaced by Father Bernard as pastor, and four months later, May 1909, Father Leo was given charge of the parish. Miss Clara Kupp of Muenster was teacher for a time with an enrollment of 19. In 1911 Mr. Plemel was again in charge of the school. He taught the children Gregorian chant and on August 6, 1911 the children sang for a High Mass. In 1912 was conducted by Miss Mary Plemel from Benedict, O. S. U. In 1912 two double weddings were solemnized, first one on October 5 Jacob Schwartz and Susanna Raskob, and Michael Kunz and Mary Raskob, were married and the other one October 29 when John Schwinghammer and Catharine Binsfeld, and Jo Raskob and Mary Binsfeld were married.

Bishop Pascal visited the parish July 2, 191 blessed the church and administered the sacrament mation to 14 members. Prior Bruno ce the High Mass, while Fathers Chrysostom and Casimir assisted the Bishop, who addressed th egation before confirmation.

In 1914 Father Bernard visited St. Grego

added to the north of the sanctuary which served as sleeping quarters for the priest and as sacristy for the church. Father Joseph Wicket was Father Bernard's assistant and also paid frequent visits to St. Gregor. Here is how he described the annex and his experiences in it: "Since there was no lodging to be had in the village, this annex, a few feet long and wide, made of simple boards, served as sleeping quarters. Instead of a chimney, a stove pipe led through an opening in the roof. On windy nights this pipe rattled so that it was impossible to sleep. On a rainy night sheets of water inundated the room. No matter into what corner I pushed the



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bed, I could not find a dry spot. In desparation I finally left it entirely and looked for another place. Mr. Frank or Martin Plenert had a little room and that is where I found some rest." When Mr. Rues erected a large home in the village, Father Joseph stayed there while in St. Gregor and always found cordial hospitality.

Father George Scheffold, O.S.B. preached a mission from June 30 to July 6, 1914; the whole parish attending the three daily sermons. On July 5 he blessed the mission cross and on July 4, after a Mass for the deceased members of the parish, blessed the cemetery. The parish at that time numbered 25 families and several bachelors. According to the parish census of 1920 the number of families had increased to 36 and there were 12 bachelors. The parish books for 1912 to 1913 showed a cash balance of $1.35, by 1922 they showed a balance of $9 861.92. With such a respectable sum on hand, Father Joseph and the parishioners believed that the time had come to erect a new church. They wanted to construct it of brick, large and beautiful enough to be a credit to the parish and the Colony. In November 1922 Father Joseph was appointed pastor of St. Anne's Church, Anaheim, but he remained in charge of St. Gregor. The cornerstone for the new church was blessed by Abbot Michael July 25, 1923, assisted by Fathers Joseph, Casimir, Ignatius and D. O'Sullivan. At the parish festival that followed, plus a few previous entertainments, the sum of $1250 was realized and added to the building fund. Mr. Anton Stadelmann of Engelfeld was the contractor. Construction proceeded smoothly and without mishap that summer until August 24, when August Hogg of Annaheim who was working on the roof at the time, was struck on the head by a brick falling from the tower and fell from the roof unconscious. Fortunately he fell into a ditch filled with water which broke his fall. He was rushed to the hospital at Humboldt where he remained unconscious for several days, but recovered and returned home in about three weeks. The church was built 86 x 40 ft. with a 12 ft. high basement, and a 86 ft. high tower. The stained glass windows, costing $1,000 were donated by the parishioners, and one parish donated a bell weighing 1800 lbs. Not counting these donations, the cost of the church, complete with two furnaces and interior furnishings mounted to $18,000. The new church was large that the parishioners at the time filled only half of it. But Father Joseph and his flock had built for the future, constructing the church so that the east wall could be removed when it became necessary to enlarge the church. It was a wise provision. Now in 1953 plans are being drawn up to enlarge it because the congregation has outgrown the space available.

Abbot Michael blessed the church October 7, 1923. Father Joseph celebrated a solemn High Mass *in pontifics*, with Father Peter as deacon, and Father Daniel O'Sullivan as subdeacon. Father Abbot congratulated the parish and its pastor for erecting such a beautiful church. Eleven boys and girls received their first Holy Communion, and the ladies of the parish served meals in the old frame church.

About this time Father Marcellus, pastor of Engelfeld, was placed in charge of St. Gregor so that Father Joseph could devote his full time to Annaheim.

The next celebration in St. Gregor was July 31, 1927. At 9:30 Father Marcellus celebrated a low Mass at which 25 children received solemn Communion and at 10:00 there was a High Mass. At 2:00 P.M., Abbot Severin arrived by auto and was met by the parishioners at the main road. They accompanied him to the church where he was met by Father Marcellus. After the children had been invested with the scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Father Abbot confirmed them assisted by Fathers Marcellus and Alovsius.

St. Gregor was host to the District Katholiken tak (District Catholic Convention) of St. Peter's Colony on July 13, 1930. Abbot Severin sang a pontifical High Mass, assisted by Fathers Prior Wilfrid, Xavier, Alovsius, and Alphonse. Prior Peter delivered the sermon. The ladies of the parish served dinner. At 2:00 P.M. the convention was opened and Father Marcellus, Messers John Raab, [illegible] delegates, Father August Kreidorf O.M.I., the General Secretary of the Volksverein, addressed the assembly on Catholic Education and Abbot Severin spoke on the Sacrament of Matrimony as Father Marcellus thanked all the visitors and Father Abbot gave them his blessing. In the evening the Theatrical Society of St. Gregor staged "The Dust

of the Earth under the direction of Mr. H. Murphy.

Father Abbot visited St. Gregor again on October 12, 1930, for the canonical visitation. Muddi

Abbot pronounced the Absolution for the dead in the Church instead, and imparted the Apostolic Blessing.

In August 1931 Father Marcellus was appointed pastor of Muenster and retained the administration of St. Gregor. In his capacity as Immigration Agent in the Volksverein he was instrumental in bringing a number of German settlers to Canada and located them on farms in the vicinity of St. Gregor. This accounted for the fact that the number of parishioners greatly increased and a greater number contributed to the support

church was wiped out by the time the parish celebrated its silver jubilee, November 13, 1932.

The day chosen for the jubilee was cold, 13 below zero. Father Joseph of Annaheim motored to St. Gregor to take part in the festivity, and had to borrow a car from one of the farmers on the because, "the antifreeze in his own car had frozen." Prior Peter, the first pastor, celebrated a

preached, and Father Marcellus was subdeacon. Prior Peter also spoke briefly recalling some of the joys and sorrows of the pioneer days. Both Father Joseph and Prior Peter cited the parable of the of mustard seed, which our Lord had used to foretell the growth of the Church. Despite the cold weather Fathers Bernard, Matthew and Augustine were present. Father Matthew had held services in St. Gregor during the preceding to assist Father Marcellus. In the afternoon Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament and the singing of the Te Deum closed the jubilee celebration.

On September 29, 1935, after a High Mass sung by Father Marcellus, Abbot Severin confirmed 83 children of the parish in the afternoon and announced that Father Matthew had been appointed pastor of Engelfeld and that, henceforth St. Gregor would be attended by him. This arrangement lasted until September 1939, when St. Gregor was once again placed in charge of the pastor of Muenster, where it has remained since then. Though there is no resident priest in St. Gregor the parish has regular divine service, two Masses on every Sunday and Holy Day since October 1947, and Mass is celebrated there frequently on week days, especially during the summer when the children receive religious instruction. The present pastor since 1947, is Father Gregory, and Father Alfred

Father Marcellus celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination August 5, 1945 in St. Gregory's Church with a solemn High Mass, Fathers Wilfrid and Martin being deacon and subdeacon, and Abbot Severin assisted from the throne in Cappa Magna and delivered the jubilee sermon. Holy Mass, he said, was the highest service man can render Almighty God, and he stressed the necessity of more vocations to the priesthood. On leaving the church, three little girls, Mary Kofer, Jeannette Frank and Johanna Schmidt, presented a spiritual bouquet to the jubilarian and Mr. John Raab extended the greetings of the parish and in their name presented a gift. The men's choir sang the "Vivat Pastor Bonus", (Long Live the Good Shepherd) at the beginning of the service and entertained during the meal which the ladies had prepared.

The following young ladies of St. Gregory's Parish joined religious communities: Sisters Veronica Plecuk, Mercedes Raab and Alexis Taphorn, the Order of St. Ursula, Bruno; Sister Patricia Trainor the Order of St. Elizabeth, Humboldt and Sister M. Bernardine Trainor, Sisters of St. Joseph,

St. Gertrude's Mission

St Gertrude's Parish is one of the oldest and at the same time the youngest. Located 8 miles south east of Muenster on Section 16, township 36 range 21. It had a double beginning, one in 1908 the other in 1946

On May 20, 1908, Father Peter celebrated the first Mass in the district in Mr Adam Bunz's log house, section 22, township 36 range 21. After the Mass a meeting was held and the following trus were elected. Adam Bunz, Henry Boehm and Frank Schuler The assembled people were in favor of organizing a new parish. Father Peter celebrated Mass in the same place on June 28. At the meeting after this service, it was agreed to build the church on the north-west quarter of section 10 township 36, range 21. owned by Mr Peter Jos The projected church was to be 40 x 24, and Messrs Leonard Jos and Michael Brunn were elected to join the three trustees and form the building committee Prior Bruno and Father Peter inspected the site, found it to be centrally located and acceptable. Mr. Adam Bunz and Michael Brunn were in charge of subscriptions, and St Gertrude, the Seraphic Virgin. a Benedictine saint of the thirteenth century. was chosen as the patroness. Services were held intermittently at the Mission. Records show that Father Boniface visited it August 23, 1908, and Father Casimir on May 29. 1909. and services were held there as late as August 28. 1910. At at meeting in Muenster. September 11, 1910. the parishioners decided that the church should be built on section 16, township 36, range 21. instead of the former site. Mr F Heidgerken of Humboldt owned this land and donated five acres for the proposed church. Father Leo visited the mission several times. On July 16 1911 Father Martin Hoffmann. O.S.B.. a brother of Father Dominic. celebrated Mass there. That day a picnic was held. The receipts amounted over $300, and with this sum an attempt was made to build the church. The attempt did not get beyond the construction of a foundation on the site, and then the matter was dropped. Perhaps the real reason for this was the poverty of the parishioners the district who found it very difficult to open their land in that heavily wooded region. During the intervening years the people asked Father Abbot several times to revive the Mission and in 1946 he found the plan feasible and placed Father Leonard in charge

The parishioners had begun to collect money for the church in 1945, and on July 7 1946. Father Augustine had Mass in St. Gertrude's School, located next to the church site Father Leonard celebrated Mass there on June 22, 29, 1947 July 6, and thereafter regularly until November of the same year when Father Subprior Xavier was put in charge of the Mission, though Father Leonard remained official pastor. Under the supervision of Father Leonard a church 84 by 34 feet with full basement was erected during the summer of 1947 Mr. Jacob Raskob of St. Gregor was the contractor and the approximate cost of the building was $12 500. Prior Peter blessed the Church October 12 1947 and sang the solemn High Mass, assisted by Fathers Leonard and George as deacon and sub

Abbot Severin confirmed 18 boys and girls of St Gertrude's parish October 10, 1948. Father Leonard celebrated the High Mass and Father Abbot preached the sermon, reminding the parishioners to inculcate a devotion to the Blessed Virgin the daily recitation of the Family Rosary

St Gertrude's Parish honored Father Leonard August 13. 1950, on the occasion of his silver jubilee. He offered a solemn High Mass of thanksgiving assisted by Fathers Florian and Leo Hirt as deacon and subdeacon. Prior Peter delivered the sermon, mentioning the work Father Leonard had done to establish the parish in the past four years St Gertrude's Choir rendered a polyphonic Mass, which they had practiced under the direction of Father Florian. After Benediction. the school children under the direction of Miss Agnes Foelzer. their teacher, sang a song and recited "The Beautiful Hands of a Priest." Six little girls offered congratulations in the name of the parish. Mr Leo Blanch, one of the trustees, made three presenta

tions, one each from the young people, the Christian Mothers, and the parishioners. In reply Father Leonard said that as pastor he was chiefly interested in the spiritual welfare of his people and pointed to the need of prayer shown in the Fatima apparitions of the Blessed Virgin. Father Xavier spoke briefly and congratulated the people for their cooperation with the pastor and the neighboring parish of St Scholastica.

The trustees of the parish since its refounding are Messrs Bernard Loehr, Leo Blanch and John Pape. The congregation consists of about 40 families. Sister Maureen Maier has joined the Ursulines at Bruno. Abbot Severin again visited the parish September 28, 1952 and confirmed 17 boys and 21 girls. That morning he had confirmed 22 boys and 34 girls at St Scholastica.

Church of St. Gertrude, Muenster.

St. Patrick's Mission

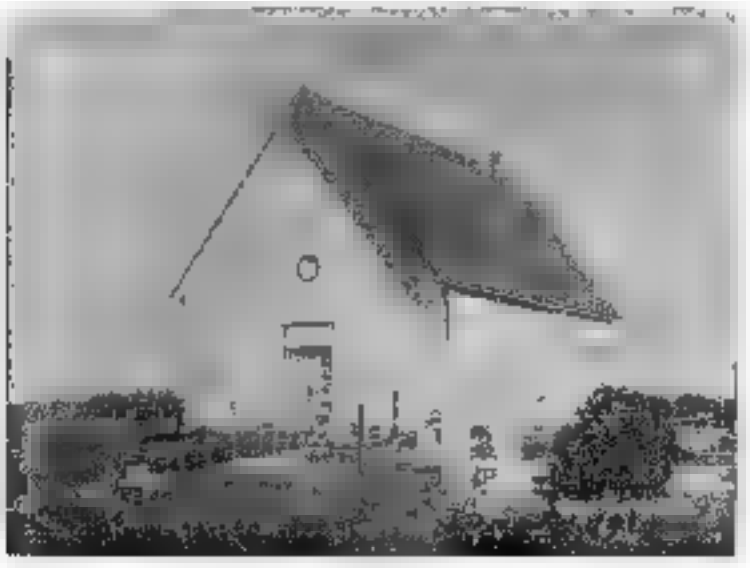
St. Patrick's Church, is located on section 4 township 35, range 21 seventeen miles southeast of Muenster 6 miles southeast of St Gertrude's Parish, and seven miles west of Leroy In 1904 and 905 Father J. C. Sinnett, a secular priest of the diocese of Prince Albert, brought a group of set tlers from Ontario, into the district south of St Peter's Colony. township 34, range 20 and 21 north of Lanigan. The first settlers of the district were Wm. Evans, Valentine Sowinski, Jos. Koski, John Fallen, Manses Devine, Angus McDonald, Louis Hull, George Amstett. Joseph Amstett, Harold Hall and the Doyle family The settlement was called the Irish Colony and in its center Father Sinnet established his parish house and church, dedicated to St Ignatius of Loyola. The town which grew up nearby was named Sinnet in honor of the founder Father Sinnett visited the settlers in the southern part of St Peter's Colony and established a mission 2 miles north of his colony. within the territory of St Peter's Colony He directed his settlers to go to Muenster and from there they trek ed south to their homesteads

When the cornerstone was laid for St. Peter's College in June 1921, Father Sinnett gave an elo quent talk. He had a high regard for the Jesuit Order. dedicated his church at Sinnett to St. Ig natius, and called the place of the mission in St Peter's Colony Manresa, though St. Patrick had been chosen its patron In his later years he joined the Jesuits at Guelph, Ontario Subsequent

Sinnett and St Patrick's Mission were: Fathers Albert Charet, 1922-1923, Bernard, F Corcoran 923-1926. A. J McMillan, 1924, J. A. Pierre, 1926 J. O'Leary, 1926, A Perrault, 1927 1931. Francis Gallery. 1931. Wilfred Dunphy. 1931 194 Jerome Volk, 1941 1945, C Junker, 1945 1949, Faux Juzvnic, September 1949 to the present. The present trustees are Tom Gresty, Louis Kraus, Ig natius Paprosky, with Caesar Verbeke as secretary

The first High Mass recorded at St Patrick's Church was sung on November 17, 1926 by Father J. O'Leary Abbot Severin paid his first visit to St Patrick's Mission July 31, 1932, when he confirmed 23 children and 3 adults Since the little was unable to hold all the visitors a solemn High Mas was celebrated in the open. Father Dunphy and Father Francis assisted Father Abbot who preached the sermon. After the function the Abbot distributed souvenir pictures of his silver jubilee of the priesthood to all the faithful, and medals of St Benedict to the servers the confirmed and the

The last time Father Abbot administered con firmation at the Mission was on September 21, 1952 when he confirmed 27 persons. Plans are going ahead to improve the church by 1955, the year of the golden jubilee of the Mission. The parishioners are hoping to build a full basement and to add a tower and vestibule



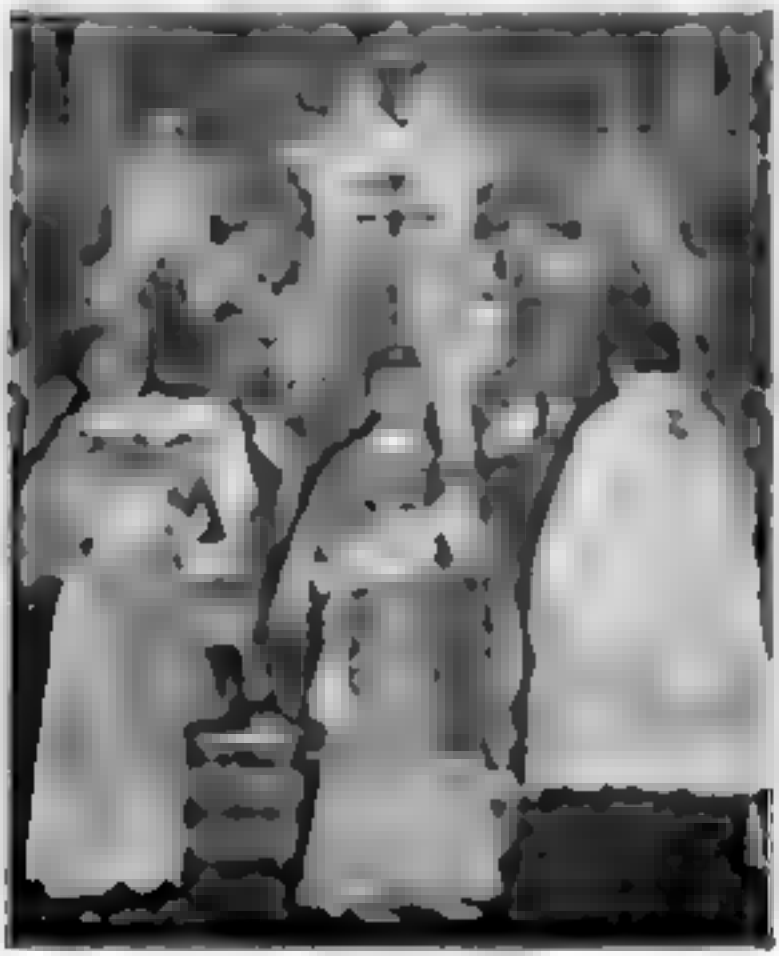
Church of St. Patrick

DOUBLE JUBILEE OF ABBOT ORDINARY SEVERIN O.S.B.

A happy and solemn event was the golden jubilee of profession and the silver jubilee as Abbot which Abbot Severin observed on July 21 1952 — feast of the Solemnity of St Benedict Fifty years ago, on the same date and feast, he had made his profession as a Benedictine monk and twenty five years ago on May 4, 1927 he had been blessed and installed as the third Abbot of St Peter's Abbey by Bishop Joseph Prud'homme of Prince Albert

Participating in the joyful services with the Fathers and people of the Abbey Nullius were Archbishop M C O'Neill, of Regina, and Metropolitan of the Abbey Nullius, Archbishop P J Pocock of Winnipeg, Bishop Reginald Dupratt O.P., resigned Bishop of Prince Albert, Bishop Leo P Dworschak, Auxiliary Bishop of Fargo, N D Bishop Andrew Roborecki of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Diocese of Saskatchewan, Bishop Francis J Klein, of Saskatoon, Archabbot Denis Strittmatter, O S.B. St Vincent Archabby Latrobe, Pa the Rt Rev Msgrs. L Lussier Pontexas J A Boucher, Prince Albert, J E Cahill, Winnipeg. Among those occupying reserved seats in the church were two brothers of the jubilarian and three sisters Father Innocent O.S.B. of St John's Abbey and Father Norbert, O.S.B. of St Paul Minn. Sisters Waltruda, Veneranda and Devota O.S.B., of St Benedict's Convent, St Joseph Minn. (Four other sisters of the jubilarian, Sisters Urban, Gemma, Assumpta and Cecile, O S B. of St Joseph's Convent, St Joseph, Minn. sent a congratulatory telegram signed, "The Other Five", the fifth one being Father Abbot's sister Agatha postmistress of St Joseph., About 50 priests, diocesan clergy and representatives of seven religious orders and congregations were present. Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus formed a guard of honor

The Pontifical High Mass of thanksgiving was offered at 10:00. Prior Peter was assistant priest Fathers Leonard and Augustine were deacons of — two newly ordained deacons of St Peter's Abbey. Fathers James Gray and Vincent M. — deacon and subdeacon. Fathers Xavier and Jerome were masters of ceremonies and the Abbey choir sang under the direction of Father Leander Archbishop O'Neill officiated at the renewal of vows, after which the jubilarian, with arms outstretched chanted verse 116 of Psalm 1 8 th — Uphold me, O Lord, according to Thy word and I shall live and let me not be confounded in my expectation." The Archbishop then presented a gilded staff, saying. "Brother Severin, receive this blessed staff, which represents the Cross of Christ as a support of your advanced age, and henceforth — use it not so much for the support of your bodily strength as rather for the obtaining of — itual fortitude from Our Saviour. Jesus Christ against our adversaries, both visible and invisible Who has called us to Himself in the Gospel saying, 'Come to me, all ye that labor, and are burdened, and I will refresh you.'" After the renewal of — vows, Bishop Dworschak, former pupil of the jubilarian — delivered a sermon on the spirit of St Benedict "St Benedict told his monks" the speaker — od in part, "that they could find peace only through obedience. Obedience is the heart and soul of the Benedictine spirit No man has — achieved peace and freedom for himself by subduing his own selfish desires for the law of God Ora et labora — pray and work — is not only — motto of the Benedictines. — it is an ideal that



After the jubilee Mass Prior Peter that the Holy Father had directed Msgr. J. B. Montini, Substitute Papal Secretary of State, to Father Abbot the following letter: "The August Pontiff, according to the request of the Most Reverend Bernard Kaelin, Abbot-Primate of the Benedictine Order, submitted to His Holiness in a letter of dutiful homage, stating that you are about to commemorate the happy completion of fifty since pronouncing religious vows, and of fice; grants to you the faculty of imparting the Papal Benediction once to the faithful, observing the customary prescribed form. His Holiness, sin- ly desiring for you a daily more abundant har virtue and the never failing solace of hol joy blesses you with overflowing love, and He prays that God may pour out over you and your com abundance of the light and the treas of His Divine Wisdom." Immediately after the reading of this letter Father Abbot imparted Papal blessing.

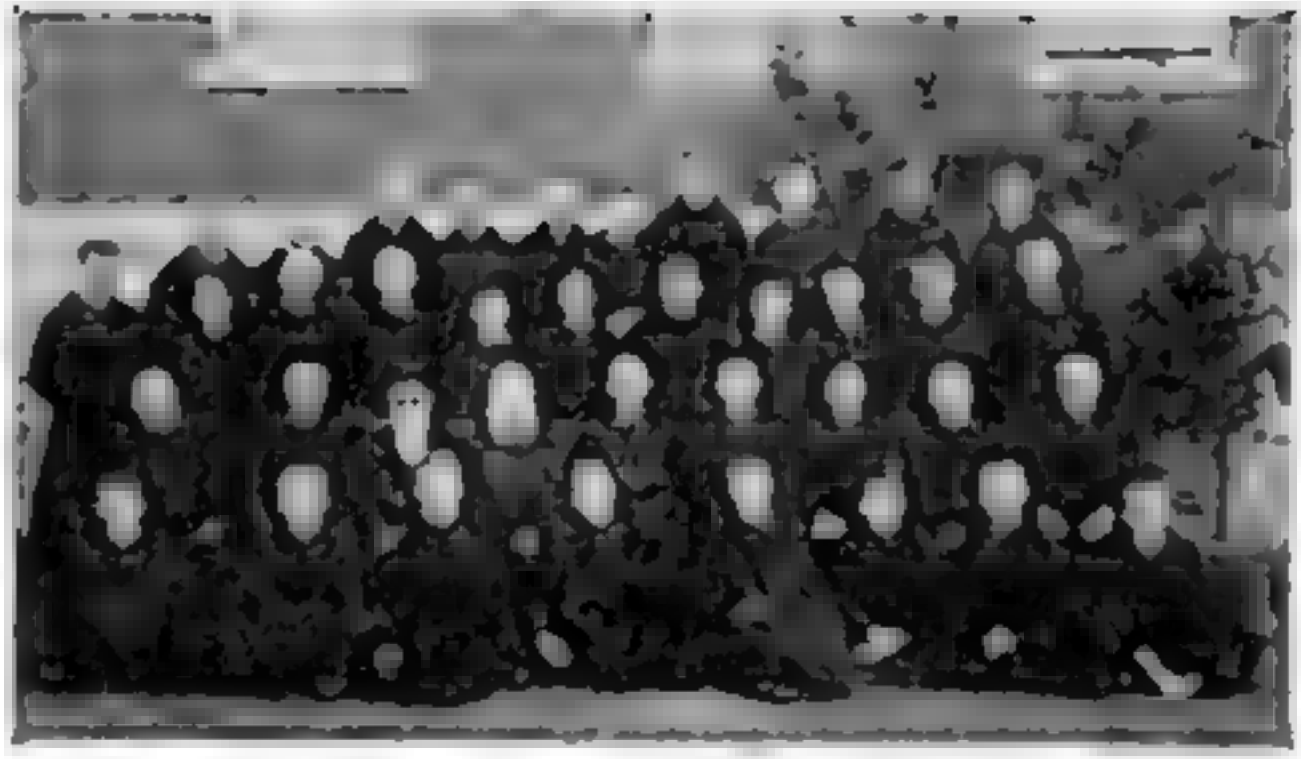
After the services the clergy, the sisters and representative laymen attended the banquet pared by the Sisters of St. Elizabeth in the College auditorium. Father Bernard, pastor of Bruno, was toastmaster, the Abbey choir provided musical interludes and Father Leander Dosch, O.S.B., the youngest Father of the Abbey extended the con gratulations of the community to Father Abbot Representatives from the 32 parishes and presented gifts to be devoted to the building of suitable confessionals on Mount Carmel. Peter Peter presented a spiritual bouquet from all the parishes as also from the children of St. Patrick's Orphanage, Prince Albert. Many congratulatory messages were read, including telegrams from His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan, Archbishop Bau doux of St. Boniface, the Abbot and comm of St. John's Abbey and others. Banquet s were Archbishop O'Neill, Archbishop Pocock Bishop Klein, Bishop Dupratt, Bishop Dworschak Msgr. Lussier, representing Bishop Lemieux of Gravelbourg, Dr. J. F. Leddy, Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan, and Archabbot Denis. To represent St. Vincent's Arch abbey, the motherhouse of the American Cassinese Benedictines, Archabbot Denis came by plane from New York City to Saskatoon.

In his reply Father Abbot thanked all those present, especially Archbishop O'Neill who was largely responsible for organizing the celebration. Touching on his favorite topic, the mystical Body of Christ, Father Abbot pointed out how Christ needs His members just as His members need Christ. Christ could do much more, he added, "if all members would give themselves wholeheartedly to Christ. He can do great things with ordinary tools."

"Obey your prelates and be subject to them. For they watch as being to render an account of your souls; that they may do this with joy and not with grief." This is the admonition St. Paul gives to the Hebrews (13, 17) and St. Benedict in his Rule says of the Abbot, "Let him imitate the lov ing example of the Good Shepherd, who leaving the ninety-nine sheep on the mountains went to seek one which had gone astray, on whose weak ness he had such compassion that He vouch safed to lay it on His sacred shoulders, and thus bring it back to the flock" (Chapter 27).

Abbot Severin, during the past twenty six years as Ordinary of the Abbey Nullius, has faithfully fulfilled the admonitions of St. Paul and St. Bene dict, both by his own constant endeavors and through the ministry of his priests. He has ad dressed his people on occasions too numerous to mention, and often was called upon by individuals and groups outside his territory, as at the Rosary Crusade, the consecration of Bishop Klein in Re gina, etc. In 1951 he conducted the retreat of over 70 seminarians at the Basilian Seminary in Toronto.

Besides the confirmations mentioned in the preceding sketches, this sacrament was administered to a recorded total of 6,655 by Abbot Severin the period from 1933 to 1952.



Conclusion

As the years roll by, and more and more of the first settlers pass on, the events narrated in the preceding pages tend to become forgotten or at least obscured in retelling. That is why this account of the ecclesiastical history of St. Peter's Colony as set down here becomes more and more valuable. Through Prior Peter's eyes we have seen the Colony founded. We could hear the first axe strokes in the wilderness as the settlers carved out their livelihood. We heard the sweet tones of the first bells ring out, echoing through the sparsely settled land, bringing the consolations of religion to those intrepid pioneers staking their future under unknown conditions. We saw the distant smoke on the horizon as the first railway line crept through the territory, saving the settlers forty or eighty miles in their trips to obtain needed supplies. We admired through his eyes the helpful cooperation between neighbors that existed in those days, reminding us that it is up to us to continue such a tradition.

Much has been accomplished in the past fifty years. So much so, that many an old-timer who has been gone for some time and revisits the scenes he used to know so well finds it almost impossible to locate familiar landmarks. The woods, trails, glens and prairies have vanished or have been transformed. In their place he sees regular roads, flourishing farmsteads, broad rolling acres of cultivated land. The little churches in which he worshipped have almost all (with one exception, the first church, Leofeld) undergone change. They have either been rebuilt or enlarged or moved to another locality. Most of these old-timers spend considerable time visiting the cemeteries, for it is there that they find the names and the mortal remains of most of their friends of former years.

We who benefit from the labor of those who have gone before must be reminded of the thought of an Egyptian proverb. For the success of the present we are in great measure indebted to the work of those who have gone before us. To them must go the credit for much that we accomplish. They have set us an example, which, if we would follow it, will take our best efforts.

F. R.

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1903 - 1953

A brief history of
the Order of St. Benedict
in the Abbacy Nullius of St. Peter
Muenster, Saskatchewan
by
The Very Rev. Peter Windstoiegl, O.S.B.

Imprimatur
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"Protect, O Lord, the Vicar of Thy Son on earth together with the bishops, priests, religious and all Thy faithful. Vouchsafe that all, both priests and laity, the young, the mature, and the old, united intimately in thought and affection, may become as a solid rock, against which the fury of Thy enemies will break in vain.

"May Thy grace enkindle in all men love for the many unfortunate people, whom poverty and misery reduce to a condition of life unworthy of human beings.

"Arouse in the hearts of those who call Thee Father a hunger and thirst for social justice and for fraternal charity in deeds and in truth.

"Grant, O Lord, peace in our days, peace to families, peace to our country, peace among nations." Amen.

The 1950 Holy Year Prayer of Pius XII

HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIII

During his pontificate St Peter's Colony was begun and the first Benedictine monastery in Canada founded. The first parish district was named Leofeld (Leo's Field) in his honor. He is remembered as the great benefactor of the Benedictine College of Sant' Anselmo in Rome

HIS HOLINESS BLESSED POPE PIUS X

During the pontificate of Blessed Pius X (to be canonized in May, 1954, and then known as Pius X) the little monastery at Muenster was raised to the dignity of an Abbey in 1911. It was the first Benedictine Abbey in Canada, with Abbot Bruno as its first Abbot. It is of unusual interest for the period of history covered by this book that the recognition and encouragement of a canonized Saint has had a great influence on the district and its inhabitants.

HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XV

The successor of Blessed Pius X, Pope Benedict XV, has this important historical connection with St. Peter's Abbey and Colony that during his pontifiate the Abbey was raised to an Abbey-Nullius on May 6, 1921, the Abbot receaving episcopal jurisdiction over the Colony. By this act a very unique distinction was conferred, There are very few such ecclesiastical territories in the world. This is the only one in Canada

HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS XI

This Pope founded the Abbey of San Girolamo in Rome and entrusted to the Benedictine Order important studies on the text of the Bible. During his pontificate the privilege was granted of inserting the name of the Abbot-Ordinary in the canon of the Mass immediately after that of the Pope, as for a Bishop in his diocese. On many Occasions Pope Pius XI has sent his blessing to the clergy and people of the Abbacy

OUR HOLINESS POPE PIUS XII

Our present Holy Father at an audience with the Benedictine Abbots of the world on Sept 24, 1953, speaking with Abbot Primate Bernard Kaelin. Also shown are Abbot Ildefons Rea, Abbot-Ordinary of Monte Cassino and Abbot Severin Gerlach, Abbot-Ordinary of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster. Pope Pius XII is a great admirer of St. Benedict. In 1947 he issued a special Encyclical Letter on St. Benedict. In the same year the 14th hundredth after the death of St. Benedict, he presided and preached at the pontifical High Mass celebrated by Cardinal Schuster, O.S.B., of Millan, in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Wall at Rome. This was an unusual privilege. His Encyclical "Mediator Dei" makes special reference to the work of the Benedictines in the liturgy. On numerous occasions Pope Pius XII has sent his blessing to the clergy and people of the Abbacy.

Foreword.....

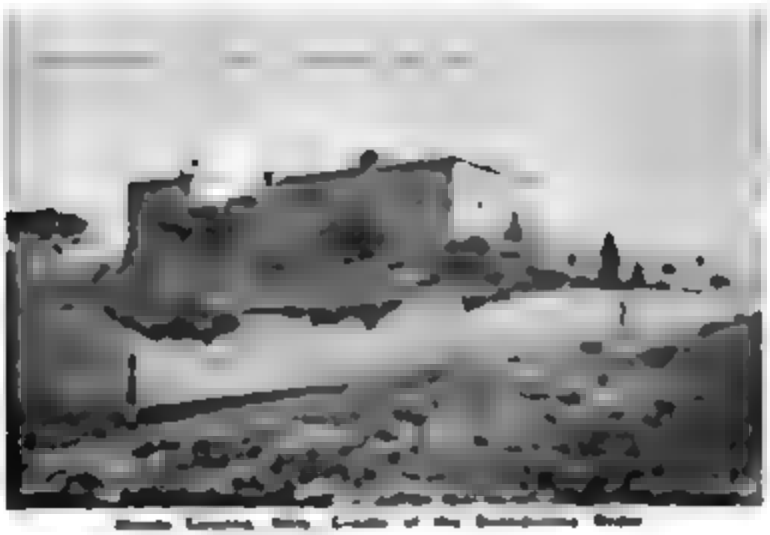
The author of these historical sketches of St Peter's Colony, has brought to his task a rich experience of fifty years, closely associated with every phase of activity narrated The golden jubilee of the establishment of the first Benedictine Monastery in Canada and the arrival of the first settlers in this section of Saskatchewan marks also the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination on May 12, 1903 This jubilee year of 1953, then, has special significance for him, for it is a matter of record that he was present at the birth of the monastery and colony, developed with both, serving as missionary pastor, prior, procurator, vicar general and editor of the St *Peter's Bote*, the first Catholic weekly of Canada in the German language Besides he can remember with justifiable satisfaction that he was influential in transferring the Cluny Priory to Saskatchewan, having it raised to an abbey and later into an abbey nullius, the only one of this status in Canada, one of the two in North America and one of only 15 in the world

Countless details have passed through his hands during the time he was editor of the *Bote*, and the files of this paper have been of great service in compiling these pages, particularly in regard to the earlier years, while the files of *The Prairie Messenger* have aided in the more condensed reports of later years. Prior Peter is one of the two remaining priests who came in 1903, the other being Father Chrysostom Hoffmann who was ordained July 1, 1903, came to Saskatchewan shortly afterwards, and is still active as pastor of Naicam. For him, too, the golden jubilee of the abbey and colony has special meaning for it coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination

Review of these pages will show that the author has followed the example of the historian Dr Guilday who emphasized the importance of the biographical approach to the study of history," by dividing material into the periods of office held by the first prior the first abbot, the second abbot, etc. It is natural that they are essentially associated with the achievements of their time moulding its events and adding a personal touch, without detracting from the credit due others, including the laity who have responded in a whole-hearted spirit of co-operation for the spiritual and material welfare of the district aptly called the heart of Saskatchewan

If a greater portion of space appears to be devoted to the earlier days, this may be justified because early history has an attraction of its own, the events of that time having the aura of adventure while later happenings are taken more or less as a matter of course. Someone has pertinently said that a community which does not know its own history is like a man who has lost his memory, and he who knows no past has little hope for the future. May these pages convince us of God's goodness in the past fifty years and move us to turn in gratitude to Him with the determination to carry on the work so well begun "that in all things He may be glorified

J H



Contents

Foreword 3
List of Illustrations 5
Come Let Us Praise the Lord 7
Prior Alfred — First Prior 11
First Parish, St. Boniface, Leofeld 21
St Peter's Priory and Parish 29
The Order of St Benedict Incorporated 33
St. Peter's Bote and The Prairie Messenger 34
Prior Bruno — Second Prior First Abbot 35
Volksverein 39
Early Deaths 43
Father John Bafrey 43
Abbot Bruno Doerfler 43
The Sisters of St Elizabeth 47
The Ursuline Nuns 55
Abbot Michael 63
St. Peter's College 64
The Abbey Nullius 68
Achievements of St Peter's College 75
The Benedictine Brothers 78
Abbot Severin 81
Silver Jubilee of Colony 86
Abbot Severin Celebrates Silver Jubilee of Priesthood 87
Mount Carmel 89
Later Deaths 96
Fr. Boniface Puth 96
Fr Mathias Steger 96
Fr Leo Ojdowski 97
Fr Fridolin Tembreull 98
Fr Sylvester Seitermann 98
Fr Casmir Cismowski 99
Fr. Rudolph Palm 100
Fr. Joseph Sittenauer 10
Fr. Joseph Wickel 10
Fr. Aurelius Rader 102
Fr Dominic Hofmann 103
Fr. Lawrence Steinkogler 104
Distinguished Guests 105
Aid from U S. Abbeys 120
New Laborers for the Harvest 122
St. Peter's Parish 123
St Benedict Parish, St. Leo Mission, Middle Lake and Holy Trinity 126
St. Michael's Parish, Cudworth and St. Maurus' Mission, Dana 132
St. Joseph's Parish, Fulda and St John's Mission, Willmont 137
Assumption Parish, Marysburg and St. Bernard Mission, Pilger 145
St. Anne's Parish, Annaheim and St. Martin's Mission 155
Lake Lenore and St James 163
Watson. Engelfeld. St Oswald and LeRoy 171
St George's Church, Naicam 179
Bruno and Peterson 183
St. Agnes Parish, Peterson 191
St Augustine Church, Humboldt, St Scholastica and Conception, Carmel 193
St Scholastica 203
Immaculate Conception 205
Carmel 207
Parish of St Gregory 211
St Gertrude's Mission 215
St Patrick's Mission 217
Jubilee of Abbot Severin 219
Conclusion 223

Bonif. Wimmer
Abbot.

Rt. Rev. Archabbot Bonifacc Wimmer, O. S. B.
Founder of Benedictine Order in North America.

Come, Let us praise the Lord

"Thou shalt sanctify the fiftieth year," . the Book of Leviticus says; "for it is the year of the Jubilee" (25, 10). The word jubilee is derived from the Hebrew word "jobel", meaning a ram's horn, a musical instrument which was blown for proclaiming a joyful event. The Latin verb "jubilare," to shout with joy, from which the English word "jubilee" and the German words "Jubel" and "Jubiläum" are derived, have practically the same meaning. Looking forward, fifty years seems to be a very long time, but looking back, one marvels how quickly they have vanished. A half century has passed since the Benedictine and the first settlers set foot in Saskatchewan!

Many of the staunch pioneers who labored and suffered are no longer here; they rest in the cemeteries, those necessary adjuncts of all parishes and missions. Those who are still living may call out with Jeremias: it is due to "the mercies of the Lord that we are not consumed" (Lam. 3, 22) Those who have witnessed the beginning of the Abbey Nullius and have seen its development and its progress have all reason to rejoice and sing with David. "The mercies of the Lord I will sing forever" (Ps 88, 1)

Toward the close of the 19th century, when the C.P.R. had been completed to the West Coast (1885) and the C.N.R., at the beginning of the 20th century, had plans of opening new avenues farther north to the same coast, immigrants by the thousands streamed into the North West Territories and took up homesteads alongside the railway lines. Out of the North West Territories which in 1901 had a population of only 180,000, were carved in 1905 the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, which, according to the official census of 1951, have a population of 831,728 and 939,501 respectively.

Among these new settlers were many Catholics from the United States, especially from Minnesota. In order not to be deprived of the consolations of their religion, they asked their former pastors to help them obtain priests. The Rev. Father Conrad Glatzmeier, O.S.B., of Albany Minnesota, was one of the priests who received such urgent requests. Father Conrad consulted his superior, the Right Rev. Peter Engel, O.S.B., Abbot of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, who sought a solution to the perplexing problem. He sent one of his most capable monks, Father Bruno Doerfler, O.S.B., Rector of St. John's University, to Canada to investigate conditions, and if possible, select a location for a more or less closed colony, in the center of which eventually a monastery of the Benedictine Order could be erected as a unifying force.

Father Bruno was accompanied by three prominent laymen of Minnesota, H. J. Haskamp of St. Cloud, Moritz Hoeschen of Freeport, and Henry Hoeschen of Melrose. On August 13 they arrived at Winnipeg, Manitoba, and travelled westward along the C.P.R. the same evening. At Whitewood, about 120 miles east of Regina, now within the southern part of Saskatchewan, they began their examination of the Canadian West. Not finding a suitable location there for the proposed colony, they travelled as far west as Calgary and farther North to Wetaskiwin, about 50 miles south of Edmonton. On August 20 they set out from Wetaskiwin by team and wagon, travelled eastward as far as Battleford, and then drove along the right of way which had been surveyed for the C.N.R. to Saskatoon, a comparatively small town, where they arrived on August 27, after 400 miles by team and wagon. The result of their careful investigation was anything but satisfactory.

On reaching Saskatoon, Mr. H. Hoeschen decided to go back to Minnesota, taking the mixed train which ran at intervals and quite irregularly between Regina and Prince Albert via Saskatoon.

Father Bruno, who was brought up on his father's farm at Richfield, Minnesota, and was a very good judge of farm lands, was not dismayed in the least by the meager results and the many difficulties encountered. With H. J. Haskamp and M. Hoeschen he went by rail to Rosthern, and from here continued his explorations by team and wagon to the east. The party crossed the South Saskatchewan River at Fish Creek by means of the ferry,

[illegible], First Abbot (1911 - 1919) of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Sask.

about ten miles southeast of Rosthern. From here they continued southeast, about 30 miles, toward the region where the town of Cudworth now stands. There was no living human being for miles around, no road, no house, only beautiful virgin prairie dotted with small lakes and poplar groves. Here at last they found what they sought: a vast expanse of fertile farm land, with water and sufficient fire wood to give the settlers a good start. Father Bruno described his findings in a lengthy report in the "Record" of St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, (Vol. 16, 1903 and Vol. 17). He says: "Our way led up the slope toward the northeast for several miles, and as we proceeded, our enthusiasm increased over the found treasure, for we found the soil to improve continually. When we finally arrived at the summit of the slope, we were greeted by a gentle rolling plain, studded with beautiful groves and crystal lakes. The soil of this plain was the very choicest, for it was deep black humus."

Father Bruno and Messrs. Haskamp and Hoeschen returned to Minnesota in the early part of September, 1902, and reported on their findings. Though St. John's Abbey had hardly any priests to spare for such an undertaking, the chapter of monks decided to take over the spiritual care of the settlers who would move into the new colony. Moreover, the German American Land Company, formed by Messrs. Haskamp and Hoeschen, decided to buy about 100,000 acres of the railroad land in the district selected and to sell it to settlers who wanted more land than a quarter section. Only the even numbered sections, 2, 4, etc., up to 36 in a township were available for homesteading, excepting therefrom sections 8 and 26 which were Hudson Bay sections. Of the even numbered sections, sections 11 [illegible] set aside as school sections.

In order to direct Catholic immigrants to the new colony, the Catholic Settlement Society was created by Messrs. F. J. Lange and Costello of St. Paul, Minnesota, who extensively advertised the venture and greatly assisted the settlers in filing their homesteads and locating them thereon. The government of Canada, realizing the importance of agriculture for the entire country, and anxious to populate the vast expanse of productive prairie lands west of Winnipeg, offered to each immigrant of 18 years or over a homestead of 160 acres, a quarter section of land — for the paltry sum of $10.00, with the understanding that the settler would live on the homestead for six months of the year for the space of three years and bring at least 30 acres of his homestead under cultivation. After the expiration of three years the government granted him the title to his land in fee simple.

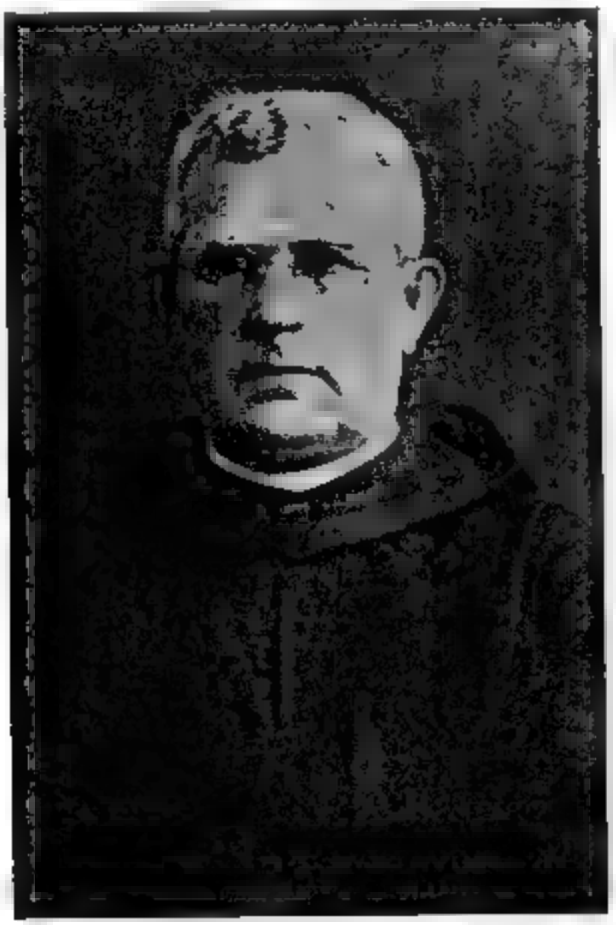
The enthusiastic report of Father Bruno and Messrs. Haskamp and Hoeschen caused no little excitement, as did also the purchase of 100,000 acres of land in the selected district by the German American Land Company and the subsequent announcements of the Catholic Settlement Society. The promise of the Benedictine Fathers to take over the care of souls in the proposed colony was undoubtedly one of the chief factors in successfully founding it.

"A pearl of great price" had been found, to use Our Lord's words (Matth. 13, 46). No wonder that everyone interested in the great project wished to see for himself. Thus it happened that Fathers Conrad Glatzmeier, O.S.B., and Herman Bergmann, O.S.B., the latter then Prior of St. John's Abbey, and others wished to see the land. In company with Father Bruno and John and Moritz Hoeschen they set out towards the end of September, 1902, and made a very thorough inspection of the land, moving as far east as Mt. Carmel. Finding conditions very satisfactory, Fathers Conrad and Herman returned to Minnesota, while Father Bruno and Mr. Hoeschen continued their explorations. Father Bruno even joined a group of surveyors and received from them all possible information. He inspected the land as far east as the present sites of the parishes of Wilmont, Pilger and Fulda. When about to return to Minnesota, he met at Rosthern a group of 26 German Catholic landseekers who had come to pick homesteads at once. Always ready to accommodate others, he changed his plans and immediately accompanied the men, each of whom selected a homestead before returning to the United States. Thus, late in the fall of 1902, the colony was definitely decided upon, and the foundations of the great undertaking were duly laid. In honor of Abbot Peter Engel, to whom the new colony owed so much, it was called St. Peter's Colony.

In the group of homesteaders mentioned above, were the following: Bernard Lukan, Geo. Frey, Michael Renneberg, Peter Hankey, Math. Gyoerick,

Frank Green Jr., Jos. Hanacek, Nic. Korth, John Medernach, Frank Kohle, John Duerr, Jacob Eul Nic. Dalenden and Paul Wilde. October 10, the group arrived at Rosthern and next day, with Father Bruno as their guide, obtained six teams for the trip to pick their homesteads. In the company of Father Conrad was Carl Mondl of Albany, Minn., and Math Butala of Millerville, Minn. Other homeseekers who visited the colony in 1902 were Lawrence Lindberg, Gerhard Kuemper, John Brinkmeier, John Mamer, Ph. J. Hoffmann, Hy Wirtz, Jac. Gransch, Con. Schaefer and Hy Kalthoff.

The homesteaders who had picked their claims and filed for thirty-one homesteads returned to Rosthern, rested for a day and with Father Bruno started on the 16th for the United States. When Mr. Renneberg asked Father Bruno, "If we return in spring to take possession of our homesteads, will we then have priests to take care of our spiritual needs?", Father Bruno replied, "As soon as the settlers arrive, we will also be here." Mr. Renneberg in a later report commented, "Thanks be to God, the Fathers have kept their word" Mr. Renneberg in describing the experiences of his first trip to Canada in 1902 stressed the paternal solicitude of Father Bruno. When they spent the night of October 11 at the home of a certain Mr. Venne, a French rancher, Father Bruno, before retiring, saw to it that every man was well covered by blankets, so none of them would catch a cold, for during the night a light snow fell and the air was chilly.



Prior Alfred Meyer, O. S. B., first superior of the Benedictine community in Saskatchewan, 1903 - 1906.

Prior Alfred - First Prior

There was at that time in the southern part of Illinois, near Wetaug, not far from Cairo and St. Louis, a small struggling Benedictine Priory founded in the year 1892 by the Archabbey of St. Vincent of Latrobe, Pennsylvania. It was called Cluny after the once famous Benedictine Abbey in France, founded in 910. Many saints and popes went forth from this Abbey which was destroyed by the enemies of the Church in the year 1790. A very saintly monk, the learned Father Oswald Moosmueller O.S.B., author of "Der Geschichtsfreund," "Europäer in Amerika vor Columbus" "Bonifaz Wimmer, O.S.B.," and "Die Legende" was the Prior of Cluny, Illinois. His mortifications went so far, that during the last six years of his life he abstained from using a bed for his night's rest, but slept on a chair, using as covering a scanty sheepskin. (A sketch of his life and a resume of the history of Cluny by Father Peter Windschegl, O.S.B., a member of the Cluny Priory, appeared in the German *St. Peter's Bote* from May 20 to August 5, 1926, Vol. 25, No. 15 — 26. The article in a condensed form was translated and appeared subsequently in the "Centralblatt and Social Justice," St. Louis, Mo.)

On his regular mission trip to St. Joseph's Church at Wetaug on the feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 6, 1901, Father Oswald contracted pneumonia, and died four days later. (How highly Father Oswald Moosmueller was revered, even many years after his death, is attested by the fact that two members of the former Cluny Priory, Priory, Fathers Leo Ojdowski, and Bernard Schaeffler, in compliance with a decision of the chapter of St. Peter's Abbey, went to Illinois by auto, exhumed his remains and brought them to Muenster, where after a Requiem High Mass celebrated by Fr. Peter Windschegl, O.S.B., they were re-interred in the Abbey cemetery, September 10, 1929.)

The members of Cluny Priory at the death of Prior Oswald were the following:- Fathers Matthias Steger, Benedict Steigenberger, Peter Windschegl, Pius Eckl, (who shortly afterwards left and became a secular priest). Fraters Rudolph Palm, John Balfrey, Leo Ojdowski and Caspar Hutter. (The last member named left after the expiration of his simple vows.) Novices and Brothers of the community were Brothers Rhabanus Canonge and Adolph Steiger. The latter left the community in 1904 and became a secular priest. Father Bernard Schaeffler, O.S.B., was at that time a candidate for the Order.

On January 25, 1901, the Right Rev. Abbot Innocent Wolf, O.S.B., of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, Abbot President of the American Cassinese Congregation, presided at an election of a new Prior for the Cluny Community. Father Maurus Hartmann, O.S.B., of St. Vincent Archabbey was elected but declined the priorship. When Father Leo Eichenlaub, O.S.B., also of St. Vincent Archabbey was subsequently elected, and likewise declined, Abbot Innocent petitioned the Holy See to appoint a Prior, suggesting Rev. Alfred Mayer, O.S.B., of St. John's Abbey, at that time the pastor of St. Clement's Church in Duluth, Minnesota. On April 26, 1901, the Holy Father granted the petition, and appointed Father Alfred as the second Conventual Prior of the Cluny Monastery for a term of five years. In obedience to the Holy Father's wish, Father Alfred accepted and arrived at Cluny on July 2, 1901. On July 11, the Solemnity of St. Benedict, the two clerical novices, Leo Odjowski and Caspar Hutter, made their simple triennial vows. Peter Schaeffler was received into the novitiate on September 24, 1901, and was given the name in religion of Frater Bernard.

It did not take Prior Alfred long to be convinced that Cluny had no future. It was no place for any sizeable monastery; the land was indeed productive enough, but the climate was very unhealthy, due to the many marshes in the vicinity, and malaria seized practically every member of the community. The population was almost entirely non-Catholic and there was no chance of expansion. Various plans to move the community to a different location, to Caseyville between Belle-

Rt. Rev. Oswald Moosmueller, O. S. B. Founder and first Superior of the Benedictine Community, Olney, Wabash, Ill.

ville and East St. Louis, to Long Island, New York, to Knight's Valley near Santa Rosa, California, or to amalgamate with the Benedictines in Colorado, proved inadvisable. Prior Alfred, though a man of extraordinary will power, almost became discouraged and had in mind to disband the community. At this time Abbot Peter Engel suggested to Prior Alfred and his community that they move to Canada, and offered to assist in every possible way. This was indeed welcome news to Prior Alfred; he immediately called his capitulars to a chapter meeting on December 22, 1902, in the parish house of the Assumption Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, to consider Abbot Peter's proposition. Present at this chapter were Prior Alfred as chairman, Fathers Mathias Steger, Benedict Steigenberger, and Peter Windschegl. The chapter decided that the offer of Abbot Peter be gratefully accepted, and that the Cluny Priory be transferred to Saskatchewan. The new Benedictine foundation in Canada was to be called St. Peter's Monastery.

Prior Alfred, was the instrument chosen by divine Providence to grapple with the task of transplanting a Benedictine monastery from the United States to the heart of Saskatchewan. He faced all difficulties with fortitude. No sooner had the decision been made to move to Canada than he set out with Father Bruno — January 4, 1903 — to inspect the new territory over which he was to extend his spiritual guidance. Since snow covered the whole territory, they could not see much, but they came as far as the southeast quarter of section 21, township 41, range 25, where the German American Land Company had erected a house and stable for the convenience of the coming settlers. Here it was that on January 11, 1903, both said Holy Mass — the first Masses offered in St. Peter's Colony — and they named the district St. Benedict. They visited the district 12 miles south and called it Leofeld, in honor of the gloriously reigning Pope Leo XIII. Then they returned to Rosthern and proceeded to Prince Albert to see Bishop Francis Regis Albert Pascal, O.M.I., in whose territory — the Vicariate Apostolic of Prince Albert — the new colony was located, and whose permission, and that of the Holy See, had to be obtained for the foundation of the monastery.

The good bishop received them with open arms and confessed: "To my knowledge I have never seen a Benedictine, and know very little of their activity. But when the visit of Fathers Alfred and Bruno was announced to me and the purpose of their coming was told me, my heart leaped for joy, and I received them as messengers sent from God." On January 16, 1903, a document was drawn up by the bishop and Father Alfred and sent to Rome for ratification. The document stipulated that the Benedictine Fathers were to take spiritual charge of all the settlers in the following territory: Townships 35 — 40 in Ranges 18 — 22, and Townships 37 — 41 in Ranges 23 — 26, a district of fifty townships all west of the second meridian. Ratification by the Holy See was executed on September 12, 1903. By this time already 700 homesteads were filed in the colony.

Prior Alfred's soundness for the venture was so great that, in spite of the severe Canadian winter, he risked another trip into the wilderness which was to be St. Peter's Colony. With Father Dominic Hofmann, O.S.B., then assistant priest at the Assumption Church in St. Paul, a man filled with the missionary spirit, he set out on February 25, 1903, for Rosthern. From here they drove in a covered sleigh which they called "Bismarck," as far as Waldsea in the vicinity of Dead Moose Lake, where they had to spend the night and nearly froze to death. Prior Alfred intended to go as far as the place where he planned to erect the monastery and where he had already filed a number of homesteads for his monks. However, he had to turn back, principally because the snow was crusted so much it wounded the feet of the horses. On April 13, 1903, Prior Alfred made his third trip to Rosthern and made the necessary arrangements for the transfer of Cluny Priory to St. Peter's Colony in spring.

May 1903 arrived — the beautiful month of Mary — the month in which the Benedictines of Cluny Priory came to Canada and established a new monastery in the heart of Saskatchewan! Towards the beginning of this memorable month, word came from Rosthern to St. John's Abbey that the settlers were arriving by the hundreds, moving into the new colony, and anxiously awaiting the arrival of priests. There was no time to be lost and Prior Alfred was equal to the occasion. St. John's Abbey served as the gathering point for the men

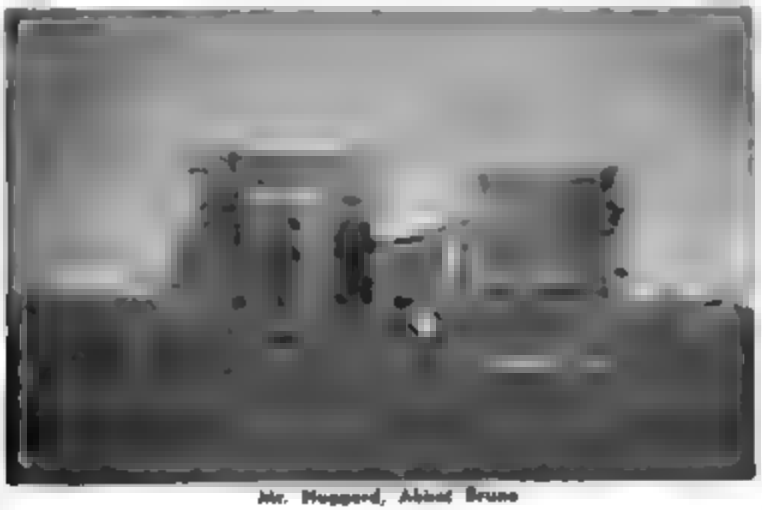
Rt. Rev. A. Pascal, O.M.I., first Bishop of Prince Albert

[illegible] to be sent out for Canada. Fathers Peter Windschiegl and Rudolph Palm had already been sent to St. John's Abbey in the fall of 1901 for their theological studies, and Fr. Bernard Schaeffler, after pronouncing his vows on May 8, 1903, had also been sent there to pursue his studies. Fr. John Bunfrey had come some time before his ordination, and Brother Adolph Steiger was sent there to work in the kitchen to fit himself as cook for the new monastery. Bishop Trobec of St. Cloud, Minnesota, was asked to come to St. John's Abbey to confer tonsure and minor orders on Fratres John and Bernard, on May 9 subdeaconship on Fratres John and Rudolph, on May 10, deaconship on both, May 11, and Holy Priesthood on Fathers Peter and John on May

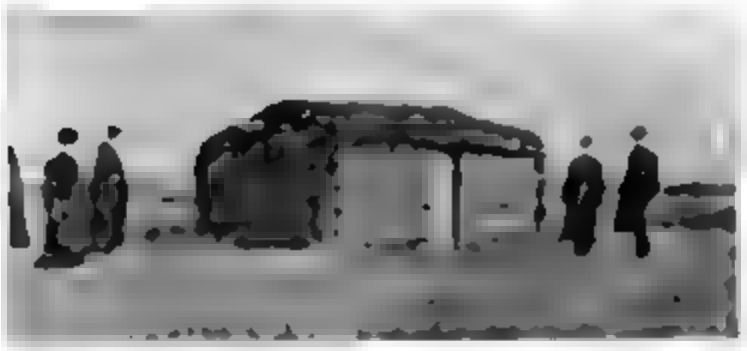
On the very day Fathers Peter and John were ordained, Prior Alfred, Father John, Father Rudolph and Father Meinrad Seifermann, O.S.B., a member of St. John's Abbey, who had volunteered for the mission fields of Canada, Brothers Adolph and Bruno Fuchs, the latter a novice, and Aloysius Gleissner, a candidate for the order, set out for Canada. The intrepid Father Bruno accompanied [illegible] as an expert guide. Father Peter left on the same day for Cincinnati, Ohio, where on May 17 he offered his first solemn High Mass in St. Michael's Church in the presence of his two brothers and their families.

The group of seven Benedictine pioneers arrived in Winnipeg the next morning, in Regina on the morning of May 14, and in Rosthern on May 14, late in the evening. Prior Alfred and Father Meinrad celebrated Holy Mass the next morning in Rosthern's skating rink. After breakfast in the Queen's Hotel, Prior Alfred purchased a large tent which served as a portable monastery, three teams of horses, three big wagons, a disk, a harrow, and all the provisions necessary for the long trek to the place selected for the future monastery. Father Meinrad left toward noon of May 15 for Leofeld, the first parish in St. Peter Colony, to which he was assigned as pastor. Early afternoon on May 16 the other six members left Rosthern, starting the almost 100 mile journey to the place where St. Peter's Abbey now stands. Prior Alfred drove the first team, Brother Bruno the second, and Father Rudolph the third. Toward 5:00 o'clock they arrived at Fish Creek where two Oblate Fathers, the Revs. Ed. Krist and A. I. Forner, had charge of a small parish of Catholic Metis. Next morning, a Sunday, Prior Alfred offered Holy Mass in the village church, and then the trek continued. (During the night, one of the horses which had been tied to the wagon succeeded in opening the pail of sugar which Brother Adolph had placed on the wagon, and emptied it entirely, but suffered no ill effects.) The party intended to stop at Leofeld, but lost its way in the nearly endless and trackless wilderness, by-passed it on May 19, and camped in the vicinity of Mt. Carmel for the night. When they awoke next morning the ground was covered with several inches of snow. The warm rays of the sun, however soon melted it. In the evening of May 20 they came to Humboldt Station, used formerly as a telegraph station, a short distance south of the spot where Humboldt now stands, and found a fairly large house, but, uninhabited and in a most desolate condition, without doors, the floors covered with straw, a prey to all kinds of insects. The tired pioneers were glad to have a roof over their heads that night. The following morning they finally reached Wolverine Creek, along the banks of which were the homesteads for which Prior Alfred had filed claims for a number of his community, but which none of them had yet seen. They pitched their tent on the east side of the Wolverine Creek on section 18, township 37, range 21, and shortly before noon Prior Alfred was able to offer the first Mass in the vicinity of the town of Muenster. It was May 21, the feast of the Ascension of Our Lord, 1903. Along with the rest of the party, Fred Distel and Anton Eimer, two homesteaders, were able to attend. In the afternoon they inspected the land, found it quite satisfactory and gathered dry grass to fill their straw-ticks.

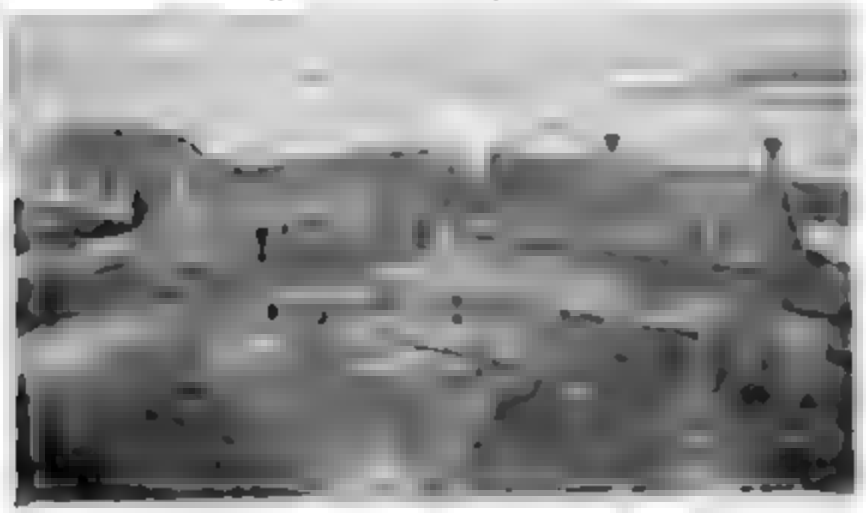
For several weeks after their arrival the Fathers and Brothers lived in tents. A small log house was built shortly, and a little later a frame house, 14x16 feet, with sleeping quarters upstairs, was erected. Founding a new monastery in a wild, uninhabited country, a hundred miles from the nearest railway station, in a territory devoid of all conveniences, naturally involves a lot of expense. Prices were high in those days, and the pioneers needed many things. Small coins, such as coppers were not even known at that time, and the smallest amount charged for any article, such as a box of matches, was 25 cents. Where did Prior Alfred get the



Mr. Haggard, Abbot Bruno
Stone of first church at Montreal



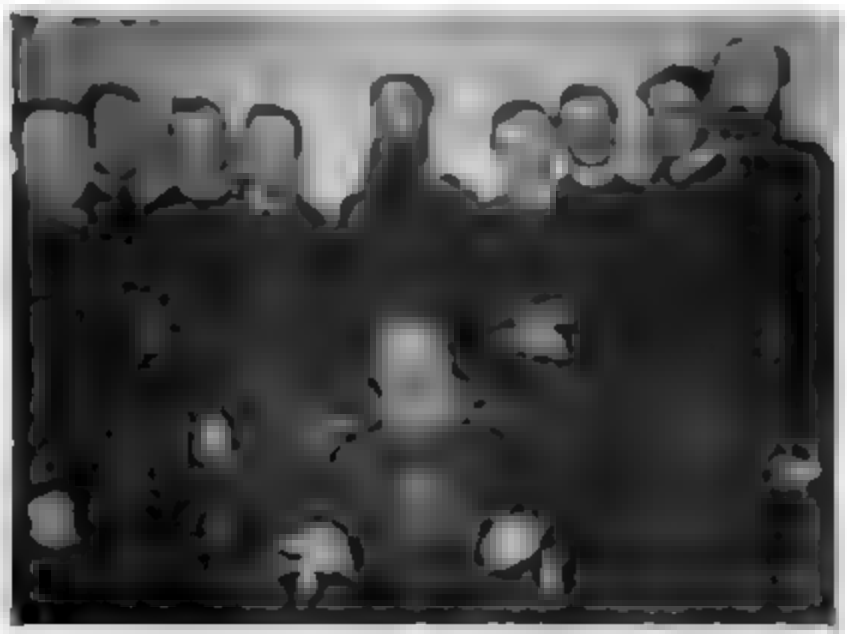
Rev. Matthias, Canada
First Benedictine Monastery in Canada



Abbey buildings (1938) showing after Church, second monastery

Second laboratory, later refectory and kitchen.

A lesson on the seaside going on a seafaring trip



means to finance such a venture? Prior Oswald had saved some money before he died — not much indeed — and Father Matthias, who administered the property of the Cluny Priory when the community moved to Canada, was directed by Prior Alfred to sell the cattle, machinery and all the articles of value and to send the money to Canada. Father Matthias was assisted by Fr. Leo and Brother Rhabanus Canonge in this work, until they also, the latter two in the fall of 1903 and the former in the spring of 1904, came to Canada. When Father Matthias left Cluny on March 1904, the feast of St. Benedict, one of the most violent thunderstorms raged over Cluny, the likes of which he had not witnessed before. The land which the Cluny Priory owned was finally sold in the year 1906. It comprised over 800 acres. Father Benedict Steigenberger, who had been assistant priest in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and in several other places, joined his community in Canada in June 1904.

Besides Father Meinrad, other members of St. John's Abbey expressed the wish to do missionary work in St. Peter's Colony and help establish St. Peter's Monastery. These were Father Dominic Hofmann, O.S.B., an assistant of Father Alfred while the latter was pastor of Assumption Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Father Ildephonse Mohtor, O.S.B. Permission was readily granted, and Father Dominic arrived at the little monastery during the second half of July 1903. Fr. Casimir, a cleric at the time, was also permitted to join St. Peter's Monastery, and arrived the same month. Father Ildephonse arrived in 1905, and on October 10, of that year, celebrated his silver sacerdotal jubilee at St. Joseph's Church, Fulda, of which he had been appointed pastor. Father Dominic was appointed pastor of St. Anne's parish at Annaheim. Father Chrysostom Hoffman, a member of St. Anselm's Priory, Manchester, New Hampshire, joined St. Peter's Monastery in 1903, and arrived at the place of his future activity the first week of August 1903. Frater Bernard, still a cleric, arrived in the summer of 1905.

Looking back over the past fifty years with all its hardships, trials and privations, one cannot fail to see the finger of God who guided all in the undertaking. The colony prospered. Approximately one thousand homesteads were taken during the year 1903, and by 1906 the population had increased to 6,000. With the increase in population the demands upon the Priory also increased.

Father Bruno Beerlin, O. S. B., with bedroll equipped to accompany the surveyors, 1903.

St. Boniface Church and Rectory

St. Boniface Church and School, Lorfeld

The First Parish

St. Boniface - Leofeld

The first parish in St. Peter's Colony was organized by Father Meinrad, who on May 17, 1903 said the first Sunday Mass at Leofeld. In addition he was in charge of St. Benedict, as a Mission, in the Hoodoo district, where Prior Alfred and Father Bruno had said Mass for the first time on January 11, 1903. The buildings which had been erected by the German American Land Company for the convenience of the settlers were afterwards used for missionary purposes, the stable being converted into a dwelling for the priest, and the house into the first church. At Leofeld, a short distance south east of the present town of Cudworth — the place is designated by a large cross — Father Meinrad said Mass in a temporary shack which resembled a large wardrobe, until a new location was found, south of Leofeld Lake, where the dynamic priest succeeded in erecting a frame church which still serves the parish. Caspar Walenus built the high altar, John Wunderlich made the pews and Nicholas Arnoldy made the side altars. Close to the church Father Meinrad and his parishioners erected the parish house of logs which were later covered with siding. Math. Renneberg laid the stone foundation for the church. School was held in the church with 46 children present, and the first teacher was Peter Schwinghammer. Peter Boxler was organist and choir leader, a position he held for many years. Rudolph Ehemann of Regina and Johanna Medernach were the first couple to marry in the new Church, January 7, 1904. In the spring of 1904 a separate building was constructed to serve as the new school. It is noteworthy that all these achievements were accomplished in less than a year, all buildings being erected on Father Meinrad's homestead. To the east of the church Fred Imhoff built a store and became Leofeld's first postmaster. Leofeld maintained its parochial school to the year 1928.

Leofeld was privileged to have the first visit of Bishop Pascal. On May 4, 1904, he solemnly blessed the new church, celebrated a pontifical High Mass with Prior Alfred as assistant priest, Fathers Dominic, O.S.B., and Krist, O.M.I., deacon and subdeacon, and Fathers Pille, O.M.I., and Meinrad, O.S.B., masters of ceremonies. Prior Alfred preached the festive sermon in German and bestowed the highest praise on the parish and its energetic pastor. At 3:00 o'clock Bishop Pascal conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on 36 children of the parish, among them 15, who on the previous Sunday had received their first Holy Communion.

The bishop expressed his great joy in being able to pay his first visit to St. Peter's Colony, and officiated at the fourfold function — blessing of the church, pontifical High Mass, Confirmation and blessing of the first parochial school. Thirty years ago, he passed through this district by oxcart from Winnipeg to Prince Albert, he said. His destination was the Indian Missions in the far north, where he spent sixteen years, attending to the Indians, living in a poor cabin, and subsisting on fish and smoked meat. His predecessor, Vicar Apostolic Henri Faraud, O.M.I., of Athabaska-Mackenzie, an outstanding missionary in the far north, died in his arms, September 1890. After Bishop Faraud's death he went to France to rest a little after his missionary labors, and while there received the staggering news from the Holy See that he was appointed bishop of the newly established Vicariate Apostolic of Prince Albert. When he arrived at Prince Albert he found neither a church nor parish house, only a poor humble school house. It needed a lot of prayer to establish his see and episcopal residence. His most ardent prayer and desire was that the vast territory under his newly acquired jurisdiction would be peopled by good Catholics, no matter what race. He rejoiced therefore, when Benedictine Fathers decided to come to his district and found a German Catholic colony. He concluded with the words: "To all of you I extend a hearty welcome. Do persevere! The beginning indeed, is hard, fraught with hardships and [illegible] but I am convinced, with your diligence, your spirit of sacrifice, and perseverence, you will attain success."

During the summer a beautiful statue of St

Fr. Meinrad Sellenraa, O. S. B., first Pastor of the first Parish in the Colony — St. Boniface, Leofeld.

Boniface, the Apostle of Germany and the patron saint of the parish, which Father Meinrad had purchased in Munich, Bavaria, arrived. The same summer a very fine 600 lbs. bell from the Meneeley Bell Co., Troy, N. Y., was acquired, both of which were blessed by Prior Alfred on August 2, 1904. Maria Gloriosa, is the name given to the bell. Approximately 250 persons received Holy Communion on that day.

Shortly before the statue and bell arrived Father Meinrad had a painful accident. On his way home from Rosthern, his one-horse cart bumped violently through a hole, and he was thrown from the seat. When he picked himself up he found that his left arm was entirely useless. Dr. Holzum who was summoned told him that he had suffered a fractured collar bone, and set it. Meanwhile, Father Meinrad was unable to say Mass, and Father Peter was called from Muenster to substitute for a month.

Father Meinrad deserves much praise for organizing St. Boniface Parish in so short a time, and for accomplishing so much. From the very beginning, he also had charge of St. Benedict's mission, about 11 miles north-east of Leofeld, which he visited regularly. Prior Bruno Doerfler O.S.B., the successor of Prior Alfred, aware of the splendid services Father Meinrad gave to Leofeld, thought it wise to appoint him pastor of the Sacred Heart Parish of Watson and the mission of Engelfeld, which needed the hand of a good organizer. Father Meinrad left Leofeld on the last day of December 1906, and was succeeded by Father Leo Opdowski, O.S.B., who had been ordained priest at Muenster, April 29, 1906. On October 13, 1907 Father Leo was placed in charge of the parish of St. Benedict, together with the mission of St. Leo, and Father Matthias Steger came to Leofeld, remaining here, until April, 1923.

A meeting of the parishioners on August 5, 1913 discussed the problem of building a new parochial school and decided to erect one at a cost of about $4,000.00, large enough to include living quarters of the four sisters who were to conduct it. The building was blessed by Bishop Pascal on May 22, 1914. On September 3, the same year, the school was opened with the Ursuline Sisters Ursula, Anna, Catherine, Laurentia and Walburga in charge.

In 1911 the branch-line of the C.N.R. bypassed Leofeld a few miles to the west, and the towns of Bremen and Cudworth sprang up. Quite a number of families moved to Cudworth, so that it was deemed advisable to begin a mission at that point. Father Matthias said Mass there once a month, until in October 1924 Cudworth received a resident pastor.

Father Matthias' successor in Leofeld was Father Fridolin Tembreull, O.S.B., who arrived on May 3, 1923. During his years as pastor the church was renovated, the parish hall was built and a new parish home erected in 1929. In the summer of 1928 he celebrated his silver jubilee as priest. In 1939 he was stricken with cancer and died on June 27, 1939, at St. Cloud, Minnesota. Father Bruno Schmidt, O.S.B., a member of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, succeeded Fr. Fridolin until 1942 when he was recalled by his Abbot. Father Luke Boeckmann, O.S.B., was then appointed, and since the summer of 1947 has also the pastoral care of the Holy Family mission which was established the same year south-east of Leofeld.

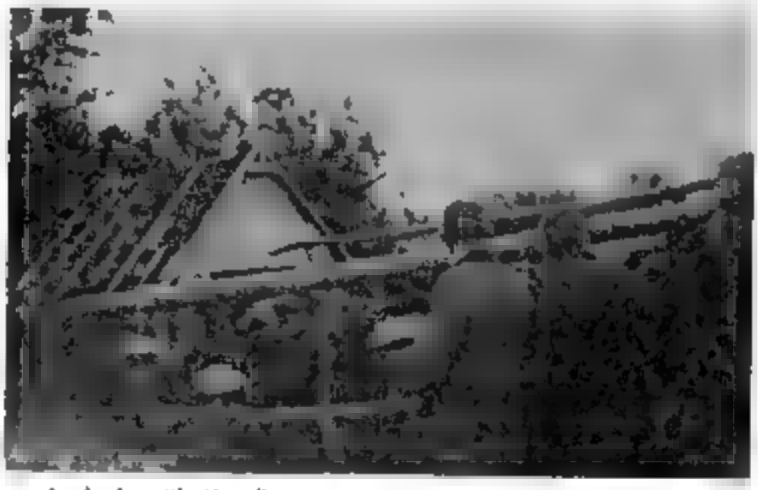
In the beginning of September 1952 Father Luke was appointed chaplain of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Humboldt, and was succeeded by Father Matthew.

The Lord has chosen two sons of the Leofeld parish as priests, Fathers Gregory Gasser, O.S.B., and Florian Renneberg, O.S.B., while another son of the Renneberg family, Frater Werner, O.S.B., is preparing for the priesthood. St. Augustine's Parish, Humboldt, also may claim Father Gregory, because in later years his mother made her home there. Father Florian celebrated his first solemn High Mass on the feast of Corpus Christi, June 8, 1944. The altar was erected in the open, Father Gregory was assistant priest, Fathers George and Alfred were deacon and subdeacon. Abbot Severin attended in cappa magna and preached. After High Mass the neo-presbyter carried the Blessed Sacrament during the procession, and officiated at the solemn Benediction in church.

The following young ladies of the parish of Leofeld dedicated their lives to God in religious communities: Sisters Chrysanthia Duerr, O.S.B., Daria Duerr, O.S.B., Elizabeth Lopinski, O.S.E., Romana Hauer, O.S.E., Tarcisia Kirzinger, O.S.E.,

Gateway to the Colony.
The arch marks the location of Old Lochiel now Cudmore.

St. Boniface School, under construction, 1914.



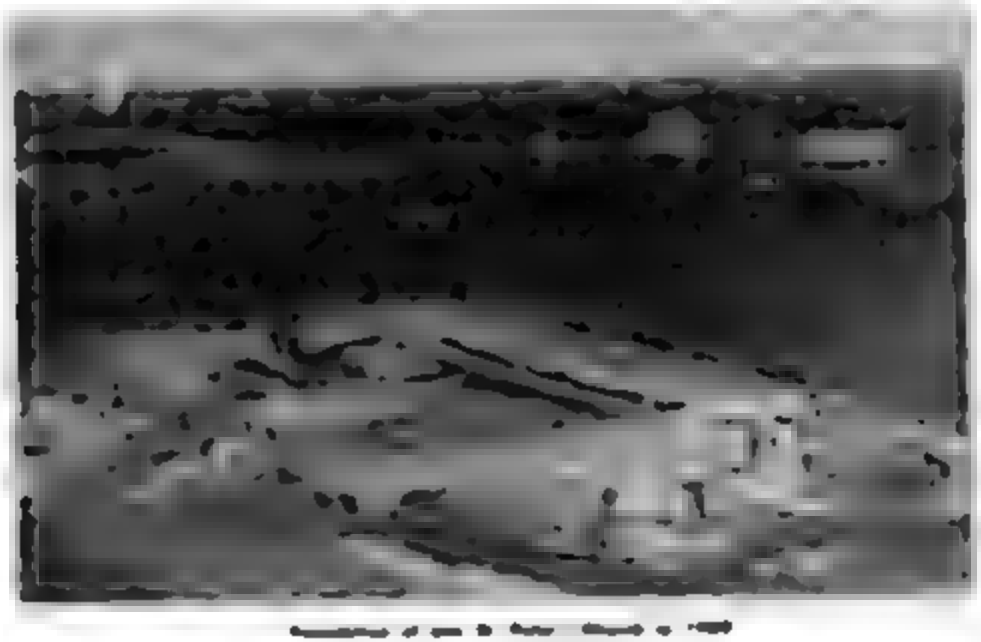
A shack, with the dimensions of a medium-sized wardrobe was the first chapel at old Leofold

Benedicta Jungwirth, O.S.E., Martha Hauber, O S.U., Margaret Loehndorf, O S.U., Lucy Gyoerick O.S U., and Pauline Pulvermacher, S.G.M.

Father Meinrad, the founder of this parish died on September 26, 1952. Among the many pioneer parishioners who have passed away is the grand old man John B. Hagen, who died June 2 1946, at the age of 100 years and 44 days.

The following is a partial list of the earliest settlers of St. Peter's Colony, especially of St Boniface's Parish: Father Meinrad Seifermann, O S. B., Adelhauser, Matthew, Nicholas and Peter Arnoldy, Henry Bantie, Peter Beckmann, W l .iam Bens, William Beland, August Blaseg Michael Borstmeyer, Sr., John Bouraiel, Peter Boxler, John Cabage, Cornelius Care, Anton Cas per, Nick Daleiden, Joseph Daniels, Hubert Die de ichs, Peter Diedenchs, John Duerr, Jake Eu.l, George Frey, Anton Gasper, N b a Gasser, Henry, Jacob and Leonard Gransch, Frank Green, Sr., Frank Green, Jr., Math Gyoerick, Sr., Math Gyoerick Jr., John Haetner, August Hagen, Dr Albert Houzum, Frank Hamm, Frank Hanke, Joseph Hanacek, Math Hauer, Nick Hauer, Micha el Heider, Theodore Hermle, George Hetzel, Henry Hilebrandt, George, Hoffmann, Max Hoffmann Charles Hunstock, Fred Imhoff, Nicholas Irmen Herman Jungwirth, John Kalthoff, Frank, John d Joseph Kastelan, Michael Kirzinger, John Kissner, Joseph Kleiter, August Klein, Frank Kohle Jacob and Simon Korth, Peter Krentz Sr., Peter K entz, Jr., Emil Lefevre, Henry, John, and Julius Lange, Charles Lemke, John, Joseph and Paul Lingel, Peter Loehndorf, Emil Lopinski, Jacob Merkling, Adam Neis, Henry Noll, Sr., Michael Renneberg, Jr., John Sader, Math, and Philip Sauerer, Dan Schmitz, Joseph Schlosser, Peter Schoenecker, Egid Schmoeller, August Schultzke, John Spani, Sr., Charles Spani Jr., Jack Spani, Peter Wagner, Jerome Waldis, Caspar Walerius Frank Walerius, Paul Weise, Bernard Wessel, Paul Wilde, Frank, and John Wunderlich, Anton Wurm

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Peter Arnold, Mark. Arnold, Miss Sonnberg, Peter Bohr, Father Meinrad.



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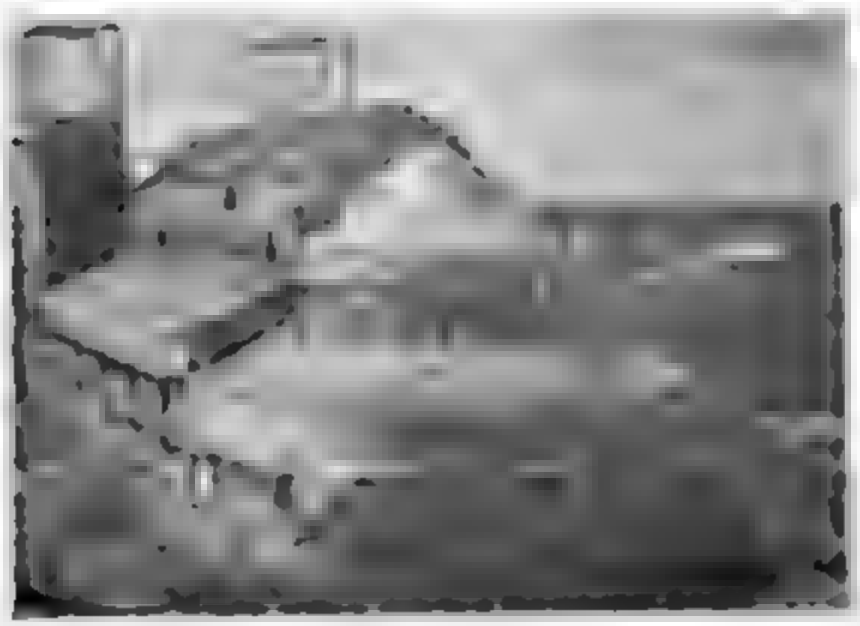


St. Peter's Church in the course of erection — 1900

St. Peter's Priory and Parish

The Benedictine Fathers arrived at Muenster on the feast of the Ascension, May 21, 1903, and Prior Alfred Mayer said Holy Mass shortly before noon. — the first Mass celebrated in the vicinity of the present town of Muenster. Shortly thereafter the community erected the first log cabin which was replaced in June 1903 by a little frame house to which were added a number of annexes in the course of time. The locality was simply called St. Peter's Monastery. Even when Father John Bafrey was announced as the first postmaster, it still retained the name St. Peter's Monastery. When later the first store, and a number of dwellings were erected, the name was changed to Muenster after the celebrated city of Muenster in Westphalia, Germany. Muenster (in Latin "monasterium") really means monastery, a very appropriate name for the place where the Benedictines founded their first monastery in Canada. Holy Mass has been celebrated there every day, during the past fifty years, since that memorable first Mass, on Ascension Day, 1903. In the beginning a tent served as the chapel, and the Fathers experienced a real longing for the Eucharistic Lord — since there was no church and no tabernacle. Father Peter Windschiegl, who had arrived in the colony at the beginning of June 1903, in the absence of Prior Alfred, offered the parish Mass on June 28. He made an urgent appeal to the people present — between 60 and 70 — to haul logs for the erection of a church to measure 20x40 feet. The people readily responded, and by the middle of September Mass was celebrated for the first time in the log church.

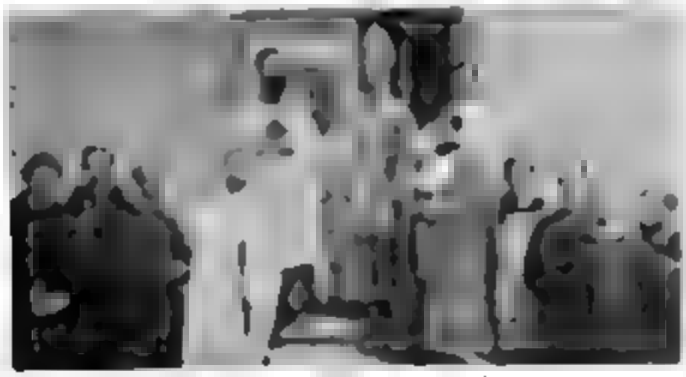
Prior Alfred returned from the United States on July 9, bringing with him Fr. Casimir Cismowski, O.S.B., then still a cleric. On Sunday, July 12, Father John celebrated his first Holy Mass, assisted by Prior Alfred, who preached the festive sermon, and Fathers Peter and Rudolph, while Fr. Casimir was master of ceremonies. The celebration was held outside on the south side of the tiny frame building mentioned above.

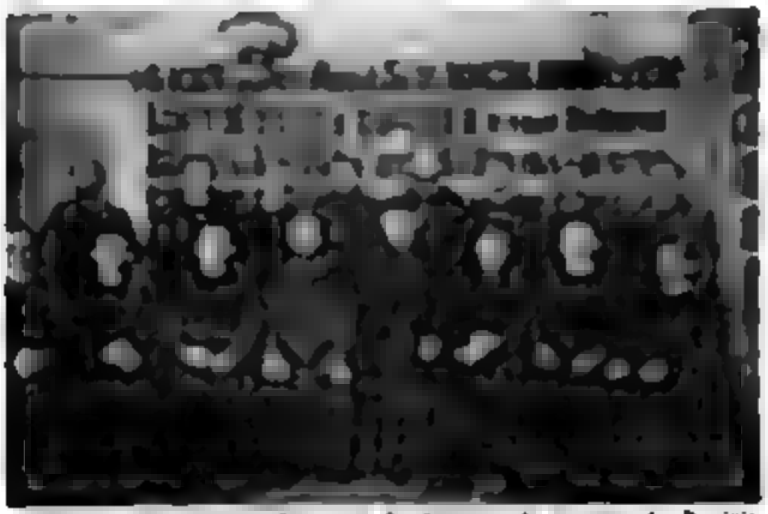
Prior Alfred was not only an excellent preacher, having perfect command of English and German, but was also an outstanding organizer. During the first half of July, 1903, he made trips to other parts of the colony, and said Mass for the first time in the present parish of Fulda, — the log cabin of W. Kreuzenbeck, just west of Dead Moose Lake. On July 19, he celebrated the first Mass in the present parish of the Assumption, in the house of L. J. Lindberg, section 32, township 38, range 22. Here Messrs. Aug. Moeller, John B. Kraus and Henry Frockage were chosen trustees and a place was picked for the future church which was placed under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin under the title of her Assumption.

The arrival of Father Dominic Hoffman, O.S.B., July 22, brought new joy to the little community at St. Peter's Monastery. Three days later Prior Alfred drove with him, in a heavy wagon, to the present parish of Annaheim, where Father Dominic was installed as first pastor. At Annaheim both said Mass in the house of Adam Specht. The first Masses said in that territory, on July 26. It was the feast of St. Ann, and the new parish was given the mother of the Blessed Virgin as its patron.

The first settlers in the parish of St. Peter — the town of Humboldt did not yet exist — were John Bunkmeier, Engelbert Ecker, Charles Schmid, the Flory Brothers, the Wigbert Brothers, Anton Eimer, John Mamer, Albert Neuzel, Michael Washkowski, Herman Focken, Clem, Kuemper, Jos. Groppe, Barth. Funke, Frank Boehm, G. Moench, Benno Bock, Peter Schons, Mrs. Lutz and several others.

Divine Providence signally watched over the new Benedictine foundation in Canada, and over St. Peter's Colony. It inspired not only St. John's Abbey to send help repeatedly when this was urgently needed, but it sent aid also from other quarters when least expected. The coming of Father Chrysostom Hoffmann, O.S.B., a member of St. Anselm's Priory, Manchester, New Hampshire, who wished to join St. Peter's Priory and devote his



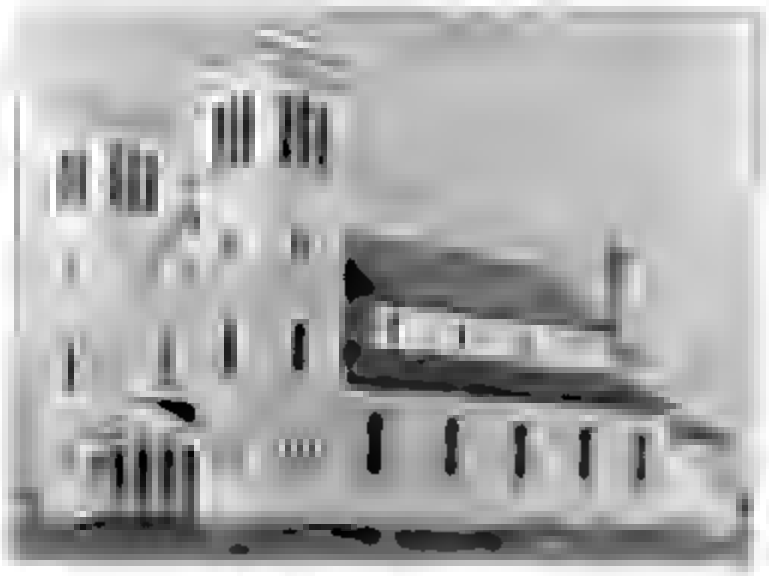


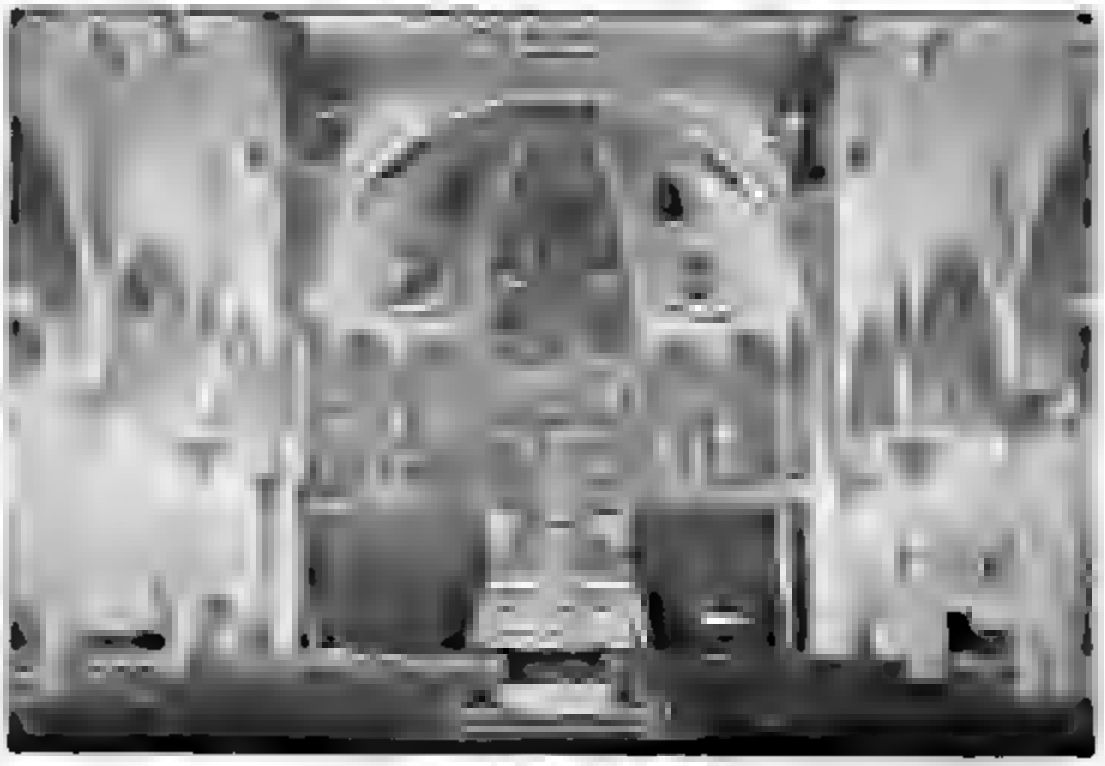
St. Peter's Abbey and College under construction, 1920

life to missionary work, may be cited as an example. Prior Alfred immediately granted his request. On July 1, 1903, he was ordained priest by Bishop Trobec of St. Cloud at Browerville, Minnesota, and without delay came to Canada, arriving with Father Bruno at Lindberg's home on August 1 in time to conduct services on Sunday, August 2. Missionary work had a special appeal for Father Chrysostom, and a missionary he was during the entire fifty years that have passed since his ordination. He visited not only almost all the missions within St. Peter's Colony, but during the pioneer days, a number of places outside the colony which could not be attended regularly by another priest.

Another priest whom Divine Providence sent was Father Paul Puth, formerly a member of the Salesian Fathers. He arrived at the Priory on July 21, 1906, was invested in the summer of 1907 receiving the name of Father Boniface, and his vows as a Benedictine on June 24, 1908. Rudolph Palm, O.S.B., was ordained by Bishop Trobec on June 29, 1904, at St. John's Abbey, and went to Germany for his first solemn Mass. He returned to Canada in May 1905. Robert Wickel, a young man, came from Germany to Muenster in August 1905, and joined the order, receiving the name of Joseph. He pronounced his vows on January 15, 1907, and was ordained at Muenster by Bishop Pascal on September 18, 1911. Father Bernard, after finishing most of his studies at St. John's Abbey, came to Canada in the summer of 1905 and was ordained priest at Prince Albert by Bishop Pascal on May 4, 1906.

Days of extraordinary joy for St. Peter's Parish, St. Peter's Monastery, Engleteld and the Assumption Parish were the days of the first visit to these places by the kind and venerable Bishop Pascal in August 1905. He arrived at Muenster by train, August 13 — the C.N.R. line had shortly before been completed — and was given a solemn reception. On August 14 the bishop conferred the clerical tonsure and minor orders on Fr. Leo Opdowski and on the next day subdeaconship on Frs. Leo and Casimir. On August 16, he blessed the new log church at Engleteld and confirmed 13 parishioners. On August 20 Frs. Leo and Casimir were ordained deacons in the church at Muenster at a Pontifical High Mass by the Bishop, after which he conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on 57 persons. Though the original log church had been lengthened by a 20 foot frame annex to the east, about 150 persons had to stand outside. In the afternoon the Fathers recited Vespers and sang Compline, after which the Bishop officiated at solemn benediction. On August 23 he went to Dead Moose Lake and blessed the log Assumption Church there on the following day. The good bishop was so overjoyed with what he saw, that tears trickled down his cheeks. He preached a touching sermon at each one of the three places visited, and remained in the colony 15 days. Fathers Leo and Casimir were ordained priests by Bishop Pascal on his second visit to Muenster, April 29, 1906.





The Order of St. Benedict Incorporated

The man whom Divine Providence placed at the head of St. Peter's Colony, St Peters Priory and its various parishes and missions as a safe guide in spiritual matters was Prior Alfred. He was an exemplary monk, an accomplished preacher, an excellent pastor, an organizer with outstanding abilities, and was revered by all who came in contact with him. His chief concern, naturally, was for the spiritual welfare of his community and the settlers, but he was also intent upon the temporal weal of his people. To safeguard the future of the Benedictine Order in Canada and to give it legal standing, he approached the Fifth Legislative assembly of the North West Territories Mr Amadee Forget was Lieutenant Governor at the time — and requested the legislature to incorporate the Order of St. Benedict Assent to the petition was given on October 8, 1904 This charter is regarded as a very valuable instrument and appeared in the "Ordinances of the North-West Territories. 1904" on pages 242 - 244. [illegible] The following is the complete wording of the Act

"An Ordinance to incorporate the Order of St. Benedict"

Assented to October 8, 1904

Whereas Alfred Mayer, Matthias Steger, Benedict Steigenberger, John Balfrey Peter Windschiegl, Rudolph Palm, Dominic Hofmann, Meinrad Seifermann and Chrysostom Hoffmann on behalf of the association of ecclesiastics known as The Order of St. Benedict have by the petition represented that the said association of which they are members has existed since and before the beginning of the year of Our Lord, 1903, in the North-West Territories having for its object the establishing and carrying on of missions, the erection and conduct of schools, colleges, seminaries and churches and that the said association now has in operation in the said North-West Territories several missions and has already laid plans for and will start [illegible] by the establishing of certain schools, missions, colleges, seminaries, churches and a monastery and proposes to establish and carry on others

Whereas the members of the said association have by the said petition presented in their name prayed that their said association may be vested with corporate powers and it is expedient to grant their prayer

Therefore the Lieutenant Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Territories enacts as follows

1 The said Alfred Mayer, Matthias Steger Benedict Steigenberger, John Balfrey, Peter Windschiegl, Rudolph Palm, Dominic Hofmann, Meinrad Seifermann and Chrysostom Hoffmann and such other persons as now are members of the said association of ecclesiastics in the North-West Territories or shall hereafter become members thereof shall be and they are hereby constituted and declared to be a body politic and corporate by the style and title of The Order of St. Benedict hereinafter called "The Corporation."

2 All lands, tenements and hereditaments and property real and personal and all schools, missions, colleges, seminaries, churches and a monastery belonging to and used, held, occupied and possessed or enjoyed now and at the time of the passing of this Ordinance by the said association shall be and the same are hereby declared to be vested in the corporation for the purposes hereof

3 The corporation may from time to time and at all times hereafter acquire as purchasers or donees by gift or testamentary bequest or devise or from any lawful source for the benefit of the corporation any lands, tenements or hereditaments and personal property in the North-West Territories or any part of the Dominion of Canada and the same or any part thereof from time to time may sell or exchange, mortgage, lease, let or otherwise dispose of and with the proceeds arising therefrom from time to time acquire other lands, tenements and hereditaments and other property, real and personal for the use and purposes of the corporation

4. The revenues, issues and profits of all property real and personal held by the corporation shall be appropriated and applied solely to the

maintenance of the members of the corporation and of the institutions carried on by the corporation and the construction and repair of buildings and the acquisition of property, real and personal requisite for the purpose of the corporation and for the advancement of charity and benevolence

5 It shall be lawful for the corporation to make bylaws, rules, orders and regulations not contrary to the laws of the Territories for the government and proper administration of the affairs and property of the corporation and to repeal and amend the same from time to time

6 The head office of the corporation shall be at St Peter's Monastery or such other place in the North-West Territories as may from time to time be determined by the bylaws of the corporation

7 The said corporation is hereby authorized to establish a college in the North-West Territories

8. The said corporation shall be governed by a president, secretary and procurator which officers shall constitute a board of trustees and the same officers shall also always act as trustees of said college

9. The superior of the Order of St Benedict in the North West Territories shall *ex officio* be president of the board of trustees and the secretary and procurator shall be appointed by the said president

10. A vice-president of the college may be nominated by the president to act in his stead and to perform the duties of the president in his absence

11 The said Order shall have power and authority by statute or bylaw to constitute and establish a college or colleges and to provide for the endowment of the same and the appointment of professors, tutors and officers in connection therewith

12. The said Order shall have power and authority from time to time by statute or bylaw to make such changes, alterations and amendments as may be deemed proper in the constitution of the said college or colleges so constituted and established

13 Nothing herein shall have the effect or be construed to have the effect of rendering any or any of the several persons hereinbefore mentioned or all or any of the said members of the corporation [illegible] any other person whatsoever individually liable or accountable for or by reason of any debt or obligation incurred or entered into for or on account of the corporation or for or on account of in respect of any matter or thing whatsoever relating to the corporation

14 Nothing herein contained shall effect or be construed to effect the rights of His Majesty his heirs or successors or any other person or persons or of any body politic or corporate

St. Peter's Bote and The Prairie Messenger

Prior Alfred recognized the value and importance of the Catholic Press and knew what results the publications of the Catholic Settlement Society produced in bringing settlers into St. Peter's Colony He saw the necessity of imparting sound advice and good counsel to his colonists, of furthering their interests, of telling them the news of the Church and of the world, of protecting them from danger from within and without, of regularly communicating with them more or less personally and also of letting the relatives of the colonists in the countries from which they had emigrated know how the newly founded St Peter's Colony was progressing. A Catholic newspaper, edited in the language most of the settlers understood, was bound to be a great unifying force for its people. Hence, already on February 15, 1904, less than a year after the arrival of the Benedictines in Canada, the St. Peter's Bote, the only Catholic newspaper in the German language in the whole Dominion of Canada made its appearance It was published in Winnipeg by the "Nordwesten" and Prior Alfred himself was the first editor The difficulties were almost insurmountable owing to the fact that the editor resided at Rosthern, while the paper was published 600 miles away

In June 1904, Father Benedict, who served St Odilo's parish, organized by the Benedictines at Rosthern, was appointed editor. He remained editor until the middle of January 1905, when Father Bruno returned to Canada and took over this post, residing at the parish of the Holy Ghost, Winnipeg. When the new printing office was completed at Muenster and the necessary typsetters had been secured, the St. Peter's Bote was edited and published at Muenster, still under the

editorship of Father Bruno. The first issue printed at the Priory carried the date of September 5, 1905.

After the five year term of office of Prior Alfred had been completed and Father Bruno was elected as his successor. April 26, 1906, Father Benedict was again appointed editor, but already on August 20, 1908 was succeeded by Fr. Peter who remained editor till November 20, 1922, when the printing office was moved to the new monastery southeast of Muenster. Father Subprior Joseph Sittenauer, O.S.B., a former member of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, who had joined the community at Muenster in 1919, then became the editor. After twelve years of untiring work, feeling the weight of years, he laid down the pen and in his stead Father Peter was again appointed editor, remaining at the helm until the paper was discontinued July 31, 1947, thus bringing the period of his work to the record total of 27 years and nine months.

Due to legislation during the First World War the St. Peter's Bote was compelled to appear in English from October, 1918, to December 1919. In the course of time, when so many of the early pioneers who spoke and read German passed away, subscriptions gradually dwindled, for the younger generation was not sufficiently conversant with the language of its forefathers. So it was inevitable that the Bote joined the ranks of other defunct language papers.

However, the Benedictines had not lost sight of the importance of the press, and so as early as May 1922, an English weekly had been founded the St. Peter's Messenger, with Father Ignatius Croll, O.S.B., as editor. He was a member of St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, assisting at Muenster a short time. Rev. Lewis Gwynn, a secular priest, since deceased, succeeded Father Ignatius for a brief period. Father Cosmas Krumpelmann, O.S.B., was editor from November 1924 to September 1926, when Father John Hable O.S.B. was placed in charge. To avoid confusion with the *Bote*, and to indicate the *Messenger's* wider circulation, the name was changed to *The Prairie Messenger* shortly after Father John became editor. When he became pastor of Marysburg and Pilger in June of 1931, Father Wilfrid Hergott was appointed editor and still holds that office.

Prior Bruno — Second Prior — First Abbot

Since Prior Alfred had been appointed by the Holy See for a five year term, it was necessary for the Priory, at the expiration of this period, to have an election. Right Rev. Abbot Peter Engel, the Abbot of St. John's Abbey, who then was the Abbot President of the American Cassinese Congregation, presided at the election, April 26, 1906. The capitulars elected Father Bruno Doerfler, O.S.B., who already had done so much for St. Peter's Monastery and St. Peter's Colony. Prior Alfred remained as superior until the Holy See confirmed the election, June 6, 1906. Three days later bishop Pascal visited St. Peter's Priory — it was his second visit — and raised the two deacons, Fathers Leo and Casimir, to the priesthood, April 29, 1906. Father Leo celebrated his first solemn High Mass at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, his home, while Father Casimir celebrated his on Corpus Christi day, June 14, 1906, in the open air, near a beautiful grove northwest of the monastery buildings at which Prior Alfred preached the festive sermon. Before Prior Alfred returned to his own Abbey he appointed Father Peter to the office of superior. Though absent from his former place of labor, Prior Alfred always took a lively interest in the welfare of St. Peter's Priory and the Colony. In July 1918 he visited the Colony and preached in Muenster, Engelfeld, Watson and Annaheim. He again visited the Colony in November 1924, and the following year on August 8 attended the silver jubilee of Father Dominic in Humboldt, giving the festive sermon. In the late fall, 1926 he paid a final visit to the monastery and conducted the annual retreat for the Fathers. During the last years of his life he suffered from cancer and died on May 29, 1927, at St. Cloud, Minnesota, aged 71.

One of the first undertakings of Prior Bruno was the erection of a new monastery, a two storey frame building with chapel, parlor, library and recreation room, store room, sixteen rooms for the Fathers and two spacious attic rooms. The contractor was Caspar Walenus of Leofeld, and the building was completed November 1906. The kitchen, refectory and cellar, as well as some of the rooms of the first monastery frame building to the

east of the new building were still utilized, the latter by the domestics and the refectory by the Fathers, who had to walk over in rain or sunshine, for their meals. One can hardly realize how happy the Fathers were, when after so many privations, they had a real home at last. Small stoves were used to supply the necessary warmth for each room. A little belfry on the south side topped off the building, and a bell therein called the Fathers to divine service. Both buildings were later razed, the first frame monastery in 1924, the second in 1948. The bell was transferred to the belfry of the new Abbey building, southeast of Muenster, and is still in use. From November 1921 to the summer of 1947 the second monastery building served the pastors of St. Peter's Parish as parish house.

New churches, both frame buildings, in 1906 replaced the original log churches at Dead Moose Lake, later renamed Marysburg, and in the parish of St. Joseph at Fulda. Father Bernard was ordained priest by Bishop Pascal in the cathedral at Prince Albert, May 24, 1906. Father Clovis Moll her, a secular priest, was ordained at Muenster April 5, 1910, this being the first time Holy Orders was conferred in the new church. Father Moll er became a Monsignor a few years ago. In 1951 he resigned as pastor of St. Hippolyte, in the diocese of Prince Albert, because of ill health, and returned to France.

St. Peter's Priory was honored by the visit of the Rt. Rev. Hildebrand de Hemptinne, O.S.B., the Abbot Primate of the whole Benedictine Order, October 1910. The Abbot Primate was on tour of all the monasteries of the order, and was highly pleased with the work the Benedictines had accomplished in Canada thus far.

During Bishop Pascal's visit in June 1910 he visited nineteen of the twenty-three established parishes and missions, dedicated eight churches, blessed four bells and conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 447 persons. The Catholic population of the Colony in 1910 was estimated at 8,000 souls. Regular services were held in all parishes and missions. Father Dominic resided at Annaheim, Father Ildephonse at Fulda, Father Matthias at Leofeld, Father Benedict at Hoodoo, Father Rudolph at Humboldt, Father Chrysostom at Bruno, and Father Bernard at Watson. A number of missions were attended by Fathers from the Priory.

In the annals of the Benedictines in Canada the year 1911 must have special significance. The time had come when Prior Bruno and his community thought it opportune to petition the Holy See to have the Priory raised to the dignity of an Abbey. The Holy Father, Pope Pius X who was beatified on June 3, 1951, graciously granted the petition. Under rescript of the Sacred Congregation of Religious dated June 6, 1911, the Abbot Primate, Hildebrand de Hemptinne, was authorized to have St. Peter's Priory raised to the rank of an Abbey, and after consulting the Right Rev. Abbot Peter Engel, the President of the American Cassinese Congregation, appointed Prior Bruno Doerfler its first Abbot. The blessing of Abbot Bruno, October 18, 1911, was a solemn function. Bishop Pascal was the celebrant of the Pontifical High Mass and the ritual followed was very much like the consecration of a bishop. The Provincial of the Oblate Fathers, Father Grandin, of Edmonton, acted as Presbyter Assistant, Fathers J. Kowalski, O.M.I. of Winnipeg and F. Woodcutter of Moose Jaw, Sask., as deacons of honor. P. Bour, O.M.I., and Theodore Schweers, O.M.I. as deacon and subdeacon of the Mass, and the Right Rev. Abbots Peter Engel and Innocent Wolf, the latter from Atchison, K[illegible] to Abbot Bruno, while Father [illegible] O.S.B. of St. John's Abbey, a brother of Abbot Bruno, acted as his chaplain. Father Alcuin Deutsch, O.S.B. who afterwards became Abbot of St. John's, was master of Ceremonies. In the afternoon Abbot Bruno officiated at Pontifical Vespers and Benediction. Mr. John Schwinghammer of Engelfeld was organist for the occasion. Bishop Pascal commented after the ceremony "This solemn function gave me the greatest joy since I was made bishop." The relations between Bishop Pascal and Prior Alfred and Abbot Bruno bore at all times the stamp of the greatest harmony and mutual understanding. Time and time again, the saintly Bishop visited his beloved Benedictines, sometimes to confirm, sometimes to confer Holy Orders, sometimes to bless a new institution, sometimes just to visit the Monastery. Having been an Indian missionary for many years, he enjoyed going out with Father Casimir or Father Peter to hunt ducks, and he would not waste shells by shooting holes in the air. He also demonstrated how

the Indians fried their ducks. He appointed Prior Bruno vicar general of the diocese of Prince Albert and after the Prior became Abbot, administrator of the diocese in the bishop's absence, and obtained permission from the Holy See for him to administer the sacrament of confirmation

On September 17, 1911, Father Joseph Wickel, O.S.B., who had joined the community in 1906 and had completed his theological studies at the Monastery, was ordained and celebrated his first solemn High Mass at Watson, October 1, the feast of the Holy Rosary

Another important event was the arrival of three Sisters of St Elizabeth from Klagenfurt Austria, May 14, 1911 The need of a hospital was great and Divine Providence sent the Sisters. More space will be given to their charitable work in later pages

On August 17, 1911, Bishop Pascal laid the cornerstone for the new church at Bruno. In Humboldt, where regular divine service was conducted by Father Rudolph since the fall of 1905, a substantial brick church was erected in 1912 and solemnly blessed by Bishop Pascal on August 10, 1913. A new frame church was built the same year under the direction of Father Benedict at St Benedict, (old St Benedict), and blessed by Bishop Pascal on May 21, 1914 The same day he blessed the two new bells for the new church

In 1914 a two storey building, 42 x 44 feet, which was to serve as a parish school and dwelling for the sisters was erected at Dead Moose Lake (Marysburg), and occupied by Mother Clara and Sisters Walburga and Vincentia It was erected under the direction of Father Casimir, who at the opening of the school, January 7, 1915, became first resident pastor He lived in the house of J B. Kraus until the rectory was completed in the summer of 1915. The combined school and Sisters' dwelling was the temporary motherhouse of the Ursuline Nuns from 1916 to November 1919, when the Nuns established their permanent home at Bruno The building is still in use

A new church was projected by the parishioners of Willmont in October 1915, and work started in April 1916. The frame building, with complete basement was sufficiently advanced before the winter of 1916, so that services could be held therein

Excavation for a larger parish school at Muenster was begun during the summer of 1916. The two class-room building, joined to the Sisters' residence, had a complete basement, and there was room to house boarders on the top floor. During the winter classes were taught in the basement and the building was completed in 1917

A parish house was erected under the supervision of Father Joseph Wickel at Carmel. At that time the church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel stood on the little hill to the northeast of the town, and Father Joseph attended the parish from Engelfeld. The church at Engelfeld had been built in 1912 and on December 15 of the same year Bishop Pascal blessed its four bells. The frame church at Annaheim had been erected in 1909

A man who did an incalculable amount of good in the various parishes and missions was Father George Scheffold, O.S.B., a member of St. John's Abbey During the years 1913, 1914 and 1915 he visited practically every parish and mission and gave them the benefit of a mission His method of expounding the great truths of religion was simple and impressive After these first years he returned frequently to preach missions in the Colony, so that he must have been known to most people. He died from a heart attack while driving his car from St. Cloud to St. John's, Minn., June 11 1937

Bishop Pascal celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his episcopal consecration at Prince Albert, June 28, 1916. Abbot Bruno, and seven of his monks attending. A month later he again visited the Colony from August to September, and conferred the sacrament of Confirmation in seventeen parishes and missions. At Bruno he confirmed. 46; Leofeld, St. Leo, 11, St Benedict, 35; Willmont, 30; Carmel, 22, Humboldt, 56; Marysburg, 46; Pilger 18; Lake Lenore, 52, Annaheim, 72; St. Gregor, 11, Muenster 27, Engelfeld, 21, Watson 31, and St Oswald, 13. At the latter mission he blessed the church and bell. At Marysburg, August 15, the patronal feast of the parish, he celebrated a Pontifical Highmass. On August 13, he blessed the cemetery of the Sisters of St Elizabeth at Humboldt. Six weeks before the visit of the Bishop the

church at Annaheim was struck by lightning, but through the intervention of Messrs. Jos. Aschenbrenner, Louis Schober, and Jos. Langen was saved from burning. The 102 foot tower was hit and ignited in two places.

To provide the growing parishes and missions of St. Peter's Colony with priests was not an easy task, but the blessing of God was not wanting. Abbot Peter of St. John's Abbey assisted wonderfully, permitting Fathers Dominic and Meinrad to come to Canada in 1903, and Father Ildephonse in 1905. When the latter returned to Minnesota in August 1912, on account of ill health, he was replaced by Father Lawrence Steinkogler, O.S.B. From April 11, 1909, to August 19, 1909, while Father Dominic was disabled by illness, Abbot Peter sent Father Hugo Tell, to take his place and superintend the construction of the church at Annaheim. Abbot Peter also permitted Frater Matthew Michel, who had finished his novitiate at St. John's Abbey (1917) to join the Benedictines in Canada and shortly after his arrival at Muenster, Abbot Bruno conferred clerical tonsure and the Minor Orders on him. He was ordained by Bishop Ovide Charlebois, O.M.I., at The Pas, Manitoba, March 27, 1921. Father Peter Fischer, a member of St. Vincent Archabbey, Pennsylvania, came to Muenster in 1913, and assisted in the care of souls for about a year.

Toward the middle of May 1917 Father Leo, who for a number of years had been subprior, was appointed pastor of Bruno with the mission of Dana and St. Bede, while Father Chrysostom, who had been in charge of Bruno since the founding of the parish, was appointed subprior and pastor of St. Peter's Parish. During his spare time at Bruno Father Chrysostom had planted hundreds of evergreen trees which are still a living memorial in the place where he labored tirelessly for fourteen years. One of the first works undertaken by Father Leo was the erection of a permanent parish house, built of interlocking tiles obtained from the Bruno Clay Works. It was ready before the cold weather set in. His next project was the building of a new parish school. The cornerstone was blessed by Abbot Bruno in September 1918, and it was sufficiently completed to be solemnly blessed by Bishop Pascal on March 2, 1919. Father Leo also heartily endorsed the plan that the Ursuline Nuns locate at Bruno. Excavation for the new Convent was begun in the fall of 1918 and continued in the spring of 1919. Chas. Bonas was given the contract for the new Convent.

In February 1917, Mr. Berthold Imhoff of St. Walburg, Saskatchewan, donated two beautiful paintings to the Abbey, one of St. Peter and the the other of St. Benedict. Mr. Imhoff had decorated many churches in the United States, while living at Reading, Pennsylvania, before coming to St. Walburg, Sask., a rather isolated district in those days, where he also erected his studio. On January 5, 1919, he visited the Abbey and spent some time in friendly conversation with Abbot Bruno, during the course of which he offered to decorate the sanctuary of St. Peter's Church with eighty of his paintings free of charge, an offer which the Abbot certainly could not refuse. Work started on May 12. In his spare moments Abbot Bruno mounted the scaffolding to watch the artist with intense interest. The St. Peter's Bote commented May 14, 1919: "We may rest assured that, when his (Mr. Imhoff's) work is completed, St. Peter's Church will be a gem among the churches in St. Peter's Colony."

From October 1918 until the spring of 1919 Spanish Influenza took a terrible toll. Almost every family was stricken, and many a young life was snuffed out. The priests and doctors were on sick calls day and night. Prior Peter, though not in charge of a parish at that time, administered the last rites of the Church to 46 patients from October 17, 1918 until the end of the year. The hospital at Humboldt was so crowded that an emergency hospital was set up in the public school building. School were closed as a precautionary measure and the bodies of the deceased were not allowed to be taken to church. Priests and Sisters contracted the disease, but fortunately, all recovered. It was a terrible visitation, and the thought of it, even after thirty years, brings a shudder of horror

Volksverein

Germany's great statesman of the nineteenth century, the renowned Ludwig Windthorst, in an address at the Catholic Convention (Katholiken tag) at Bochum in 1889, coined the statement "Whoever controls the younger generation, controls the future." The Plenary Council of Quebec held in 1909 at which all the bishops of Canada including the superior of the Benedictines in Saskatchewan, were present, stressed the necessity and supreme importance of the Catholic children receiving their education in Catholic Schools, whenever possible. They cited with emphasis the words of Pope Leo XIII in the Encyclical "Affari vos," December 1897, addressed to the Canadian Episcopate in which among other salutary admonitions occur the words "Our children cannot go for instruction to schools which either ignore, or of set purpose combat, the Catholic religion. the teachers must be of the Catholic faith, no other reading or text-books than those approved by the Bishop may be employed, and the fullest freedom must be allowed in the organization and conducting of schools, so that the entire system of learning and teaching may be in exact conformity and agreement with the profession of the Catholic name, and all the obligations it involves." Pope Pius X, in a letter to the Canadian Episcopate dated July 10, 1911, said. "You, Venerable Brethren, and all who are charged with the care of souls are obliged to watch carefully that religious instruction in the elementary schools be never wanting, but that it be imparted daily at set hours and in such manner that the children will not only be imbued with proper knowledge but also with genuine love for the Church, their mother, and the heavenly teaching she instills

In many countries of the world the school question is one of the thorniest problems. To find a satisfactory solution for the school question was also a difficult problem for the settlers of St Peter's Colony Most of them came from German Catholic centers in the United States where they had received their training in parochial schools. In 1914 there were three parochial schools in and around Leofeld, one at Bruno, one at Wilmont one at Pilger, two in the Fulda district, one at Marysburg, one at Muenster and one north of Muenster. Father John acted as the first schoolmaster at Muenster, Father Chrysostom at Bruno, and Father Rudolph at Humboldt Later, a Catholic separate school was organized at Humboldt and another at Watson. In country places, where there was no church, public schools were established. Since parochial schools had to be supported by voluntary contributions, it was no easy matter to finance them and to staff them with first class teachers

Here again Divine Providence intervened and supplied the chief centres of St. Peter's Colony with excellent teachers. Ursuline Nuns from Germany, members of a teaching Order, some of whom had already had charge of the elementary school in St Joseph's Parish at Winnipeg, heeded the urgent pleadings of Abbot Bruno, and in 1913 consented to establish a branch of their Order in St Peter's Colony

Man is a social being. We therefore need not wonder that there are so many unions, associations and societies all over the world. It is but natural that people of the same faith, of the same tongue, wish to associate and unite. All the pioneers of St Peter's Colony who fifty years ago shared the same privations and hardships tell us of the happiness they enjoyed when visitors came along or stayed over night with them in their tents, log or sod houses, narrating their experiences. All were like a large family, helping one another, sharing with each other their scanty meals and provisions

To foster the family spirit and extend it over the whole province of Saskatchewan and beyond, Prior Bruno, already in 1908, conceived the idea of inviting the German Catholics to a big rally (a Katholikentag) This first Katholikentag in Canada, a small imitation of the great Conventions of Catholics in Germany and the United States the Cen- . Verein), was held at Muenster, July 29, 1908 Prior Bruno welcomed the visitors. The speakers were: Father Maurus, O.S.B., of Cold Spring, Minn., Father Netz, O.M.I., Father Schwebius, O.M.I., Father Funke, O.M.I., of Grayson, Sask.,

Father Brabender O M I, of Saskatoon, Father Steuer, O M I, of Winnipeg, Professor Kramer of Regina, Father Meinrad of Watson, and Father Hilland, O.M.I., of Winnipeg. Karl Meyer of Muenster was Chairman of this first Katholikentag

The Katholikentag, at which Bishop Pascal, the Archbishop of Regina, the Abbot of Muenster or some other prelate pontificated, became a regular annual feature. It was convened in various places; in 1909 and 1913 in Winnipeg; 1910 and 1914 in Humboldt; 1911 and 1912 in Regina; later, Muenster, Regina, Lake Lenore, also in St Joseph's Colony in the western part of Saskatchewan At the Katholikentag in Winnipeg, July 15 1909 the Volksverein for the German Catholics in Canada (VDCK), was founded and 138 members paid their fee of $1.00 Father Joseph Cordes, O M.I., pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Winnipeg, was president, Anton Tilly, vice-president and treasurer and Father P Habits, O M I, secretary A committee was appointed to draw up a constitution and statutes for the Verein The Volksverein was to compose pamphlets for the instruction of its members and keep up contact with them The first pamphlet to be published in the German French, English and Polish language was the very instructive speech of L. Erk, of Gr[illegible] at the Katholikentag This discussion of vital questions of special interest for the German Catholics was kept up for many years. The first World War hampered the work considerably but it was resumed after the close of the war, especially during the years when the indefatigable Father August Kierdorf, O M.I., was the Volksverein's immigration secretary Abbot Bruno was one of the master minds in directing the activity of the Volksverein and for many years, up to his untimely death, was one of its officials After his demise the association lost much of its prestige, and when Father Kierdorf passed away it suffered another serious shock

A few years after Abbot Bruno's death Father Christian August Kierdorf, O M.I was chosen General Secretary of the Volksverein and G[illegible] Secretary of the Immigration Department of the Verein He was a man of wide experiences and extraordinary ability, and played an important part in the Volksverein He remained in these offices until his death in 1931 Before coming to Canada 20 he had been a military chaplain in Lor

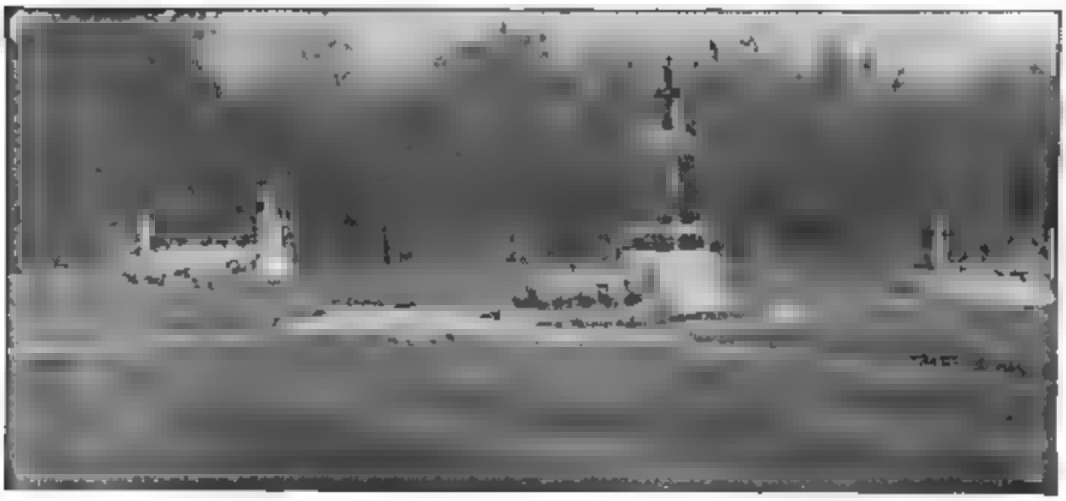
[illegible] in Winnipeg

guyon, France, during World War I. As head of the Volksverein in Western Canada he visited practically every Catholic German center and delivered splendid addresses to the people. As General Secretary for Immigration he was instrumental in bringing thousands of German settlers into Canada. These he located in German Catholic communities. He met with many a painful incident in this work, but these did not deter him from doing what he considered to be right. He looked upon his work as a most important task of a Catholic missionary. Father Kierdorf worked indefatigably and literally wore himself out doing good for others. Few men accomplished more. After a serious operation in St. Joseph's Hospital, Winnipeg, he died on August 27, 1931. Funeral services were held at St. Charles, Manitoba, in the presence of Archbishop Sinnett, Abbot Severin, and many priests and people. On the same day Father Marcellus celebrated a solemn Requiem High Mass in the Cathedral at Moenster for the repose of his soul.

The last general Katholikentag in St. Peter's Colony was held at Moenster July 19 and 20, 1933. It was the silver jubilee year of the Verein. Bishop Joseph H. Prud'homme of Prince Albert celebrated the Pontifical High Mass and preached in German and English. He was assisted by Fathers Marcellus and Leonard as deacon und subdeacon. Fathers Daoust of Bellevue, Sask., and Xavier were deacons of honor. Abbot Severin's assistants were Fathers P. Hilland, O.M.I., of Allan and Henry Metzger of Kronau. At the mass meeting that afternoon a large gathering heard addresses by Abbot Severin, Fathers Marcellus, Paul Hilland, O.M.I., A. Schaller, O.M.I., H. Metzger, and Charles Sauner of Odessa. In the evening the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Sodalities staged a drama in the College auditorium. Abbot Severin celebrated a Pontifical Requiem High Mass on the next day, July 20. Father Peter was assistant priest. Fathers Leonard and Xavier deacon and subdeacon. Fathers H. Metzger and John Fuchs, O.M.I. of Mackan, deacons of honor. Father James Schwebius, O.M.I., preached at the Mass. During the afternoon Father Peter reviewed the activities of the Volksverein during the past twenty five years. In his address he answered the question, "What are the accomplishments of the Volksverein?" He said, "During the last twenty-five years the Volksverein of German Catholics has put in action Catholic Action, so highly recommended by the Holy Father and so dear to the heart of Christ. In thousands of sermons, addresses, conferences, circulars and circular letters, pamphlets and articles in the Catholic Press it has advocated and practiced Catholic Action. The Volksverein was ever intent to deepen the faith of its members and make them good soldiers of Christ. Each Katholikentag was a staunch Credo, an open profession of our holy faith, to bind its members with strong cords to God, to our Holy Father and the Bishops and priests of the Church. Love of God and love of our neighbor were the main motives. The Volksverein tried to imbue its members with the teaching of Christ and Catholic principles that must pervade our whole life, be it in the church, in the family, in business, in the workshop, in the field or pubic life. Like apostles men like Father Bour, O.M.I., Father Funke, O.M.I., Father Brabender O.M.I., Father Schweers, O.M.I., Father Blank, S.J., Father Meyer, O.M.I., Father Ueberberg, O.M.I., Father Kierdorf, O.M.I., Abbot Bruno O.S.B., Mr. Hauser, Mr. Hargarten, Mr. Wehrens, Mr. Bens, Mr. Leboldus, and others worked and labored for the one goal: Catholic Action. It all was work for God and work for our neighbor. Their sacrifices were the more precious, because they were performed without monetary recompense. The Volksverein established collection centres to assist the unfortunate victims of the World War in Europe and many a food and clothing parcel made its way to people in dire need. The Volksverein headed the list when helping hands had to be extended to the poor people in southern Saskatchewan who suffered want in the years of drought and depression. Considerable sums of money were diverted from the treasury of the Volksverein to the Archbishop of Regina and the Bishop of Gravelbourg for the needy in their respective dioceses in 1932. The Volksverein supported the radio broadcasts of Father Grant, O.M.I. of Saskatoon, which he undertook to instruct the people in the Catholic Religion. The Volksverein advocated the setting up of parish libraries to supply the Catholics with good reading matter. Its own publications which were distributed among the members of the Volksverein amounted in the year 1911 to 1912 to 13,800 copies including two

pamphlets and six circulars. During the year 1912 to 1913 they amounted to 21,000 copies. . To safeguard our Catholic youth the Volksverein founded the Catholic Teachers Agency and entrusted Mr Hargarten of Bruno with its conduct It was the Volksverein which in the winter of 1922 organized and gave Life to the Catholic School Trustees Association. It is due to the influence of the Volksverein that a number of Catholic inspectors of schools were named by the Regina Government and that difficulties regarding school matters were amicably settled. Members of the Volksverein — Mr. H. Therres and Mr A. Huck — sat in the legislature in Regina and a member of the Volksverein, Dr J M Uhrich, for many years held a position as a minister in the cabinet"

After the last Katholikentag, July 1935, held in Regina, it gradually died out entirely The second World War shut out all immigration from Germany and Austria, and the younger generation saw no need for a Volksverein. Steps were taken in 1951 and 1952 to wind up the affairs of the defunct Verein by its last General Secretary, John Leboldus of Vibank, in order to hand over the little money left in the treasury to the Catholic Immigration Society for Western Canada



St. Peter's Abbey Cemetery

✝ Early Deaths ✝

FATHER JOHN BALFREY

Father John Balfrey, was the first member of the Benedictine family in Saskatchewan to be called to his eternal reward, February 13, 1915 He was born at Limerick, Ireland, January 1, 1847, during the time of the great potato blight and famine, when over two million people perished His parents died at that time, and his grandmother took care of the child. As a young man he emigrated to India travelled to other countries, and finally arrived in the United States, where he lived for a time in New Orleans, Louisiana, later moving to Cairo, Illinois. During the years of the Civil War he was in New Orleans, and could reminisce of these turbulant times in his conversations with his friends. As a young men he felt himself drawn to the priesthood and to the religious life, and became a novice with a religious community for a time, but left, married, and was the father of several children After the death of his wife, and after his children were grown up and married, the urge to become a religious and if possible a priest returned. He begged admission to the Order of St Benedict at the Priory of Cluny, and was admitted by Prior Oswald. On May 19, 1895, he pronounced his simple vows. He had experience as a teacher, and so was appointed professor of English. Arithmetic, Geometry, Algebra, and various other subjects in the Priory school He was an organist, and was considerably versed in medicine

Prior Alfred, appreciating the good qualities of the man did not hesitate to have him ordained a priest, a happiness that came to Father John on May 12, 1903, when together with Father Peter, Bishop Trobec of St. Cloud raised him to the priesthood. He was 56 years old. As mentioned previously, he celebrated his first Mass at Muenster. July 12, 1903

Observing the motto of the Order, "Ora et labora," he worked as carpenter for the community He added the entire north half of the annex to the first frame building which served as monastery up to the fall of 1906. His confreres helped to the best of their ability. He learned enough German to be able to hear confessions and to preach. Because of his great kindness he was much sought as a confessor On April 1, 1912, he suffered a paralytic stroke from which he never recovered sufficiently to say Mass. He suffered another stroke on February 9, 1915, and passed away peacefully on February 13, 1915. Prior Peter, assisted by Father Subprior Leo and Father Matthias as deacon and subdeacon and Father Bernard as master of ceremonies and preacher, celebrated the Requiem Mass, February 16. Abbot Bruno pronounced the Absolution and conducted the ceremonies at the grave. In 1923 his remains were re-interred in the monastery cemetery, near the present monastery building

ABBOT BRUNO DOERFLER

The second member of St. Peter's Abbey to be called by the Almighty to rest from his labors was the head of the Abbey, Father Abbot Bruno Doerfler He died June 12, 1919, aged 53 years, The shock was indeed staggering. The Abbot always appeared so healthy and strong, that it was hard to believe that death could overpower him at that age and so swiftly

St Peter's Bote in the issue June 18, 1919, describes his passing as follows "On May 26, the Rt. Rev. Abbot was in Battleford on diocesan business and on his return the next day he felt unwell and was confined to bed the greater part of the day This may be regarded as the first serious sign of ill health connected with the Abbot's last illness. On June 7 he began his Confirmation trip which he had been unable to undertake the preceding fall because of the ravages of influenza. He was about to make use, for the first time, of the indult to administer Confirmation in the diocese of Prince Albert which Bishop Pascal had obtained for him. He left for Saskatoon where he was to administer Confirmation on Whitsunday at St Paul's Church. He had bidden the community his last farewell. At the distribution of Holy Communion during the nine o'clock Mass which he celebrated, he became

seriously ill. In spite of the fact that he could scarcely finish Mass and had to be carried to the parish house after the Mass, he was loathe to disappoint the eager expectants of the Holy Ghost and towards evening declared himself strong enough to administer the sacrament to the converts and to those who lived at a great distance from the church. These numbered about twenty-five, and he succeeded with great difficulty. This was the first and only time the Abbot was to make use of the indult. Next day, Monday, the Abbot considered himself sufficiently strong to risk the trip to Humboldt. He was met there by Father Prior Peter and Father Bernard and immediately conveyed to the hospital, where he knew he would receive the best possible treatment. His illness, a heart condition, was not considered so serious as to keep him in bed for more than a week, but he never rose again. He was reported steadily improving, until on Thursday, June 12, things took a turn for the worse. At 4 50 P. M. a telephone message reached the little community that Father Abbot was dying. The Fathers present at the death of the Abbot were Father Lawrence, who had visit-

ed the monastery that day to see the decorations in the church and who had then decided to pay a visit to the hospital to see the Abbot, Father Benedict of Humboldt, and Father Schmidt. Father Lawrence imparted absolution to Father Abbot and recited the prayers for the dying, Father Schmidt administered the Sacrament of Extreme Unction Father Prior Peter and Father Bernard hurried to Humboldt as quickly as possible after receiving notification, but they arrived after his death. The choir of angels had sped him to his reward. Father Abbot passed to a better world, well prepared and fortified with the sacraments of Holy Mother Church, conscious almost to the very last when he quietly dropped off into a peaceful sleep as though angels tried to speed him quietly and quickly to their company above, before the watchers should be aware of it."

A solemn Requiem High Mass was celebrated for the beloved Prelate on June 13, by Father Prior Peter with Fathers Lawrence and Bernard as deacon and subdeacon. The funeral took place on Wednesday, June 18. After the Office of the Dead, Abbot Peter Engel, O.S.B., of St. John's Abby Rt. Rev. M. Pilan, Vicar General and Administrator of the Archdiocese of Edmonton as deacon, and Father Hilary Doerfler, O.S.B., brother of Father Abbot, as subdeacon. Father A. Charest of Regina was master of ceremonies. Archbishop Mathieu of Regina delivered the sermon in which he said, "Abbot Bruno was a saintly man." The five absolutions were pronounced by Archbishop Campion College and D. Gilles of Regina, Prior Mathieu, assisted by Fathers T. MacMahon of Peter, assisted by Fathers Matthias and Benedict, Ruthenian Bishop Nicetas Budka, assisted by Fathers F. Kovaski, O.M.I. and P. Hiliand, O. M. I., the Provincial of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Very Rev. H. Grandin, assisted by Fathers Wm. Brueck, O.M.I., of Prince Albert and Father T. Krist of Leipzig, and lastly by the celebrant Abbot Peter. The great number of priests, attending the services, as well as many prominent lay visitors, among them Dr. J. M. Uhrich and Mr. McDonald, representing the Knights of Columbus of Saskatoon and the Province of Saskatchewan, gave testimony of the high esteem in which Abbot Bruno was held, and greatly consoled the community. The highest dignitaries of the Church and State in the persons of His Excellency Di Maria, the Apostolic Delegate, and the Ex-Premier, the Honorable Walter Scott, extended messages of sympathy. About 3,500 mourners walked in the funeral p[illegible]

George Doerfler was born at Richfield, Minnesota, December 29, 1866. He remained on his Father's farm till his 21st year, when he left for St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn. Having completed the commercial and classical course, he was admitted into the Order of St. Benedict, received the name Fr. Bruno, and a year later, July 11, 1893, he pronounced his first vows. His superiors, recognizing his great talent, sent him to the International College of Benedictines at Rome, known as the Anselmianum. Here he remained from 1893 to 1899. He was ordained to the priesthood by a member of the sacred College of Cardinals on August 10, 1897. Upon his return to Minnesota he was appointed Rector of St. John's University, an office which he held until Divine Providence called him to Canada. It was he who selected the site of St. Peter's Colony and the first Benedictine foundation. He was the spiritual head of both from 1906 until his untimely death.

A sketch of Abbot Bruno's life in the St. Peter's Bote of June 18, 1919, said: "In the death of Abbot Bruno, the Catholic Church loses the staunch support of one of her learned prelates. Abbot Bruno has been known throughout all Canada for his learning and for his zeal in the [illegible] of the Church. As a doctor of Canon Law, his advice and counsel were eagerly sought. As Vicar General of the Diocese of Prince Albert, Abbot Bruno was always a strong support to his Bishop who gladly shared his labors with him, being grateful to have at hand a man of such ability in the governing of the diocese. Especially during the last few years, when the Bishop's health began to fail, much of the administration rested on Father Abbot, and his activites resembled more the duties of a bishop than those of an Abbot of a community. The Bishop considered him indispensable to the government of his diocese, and often conferred with him. In him, Bishop Pascal has lost a sincere and devoted friend. Who of those acquainted with the Bishop and his Vicar General

has not perceived the intimate friendship which existed between them? We would almost wish that the Bishop could remain unaware of the Abbot's death while he is abroad, and we fear that the good Bishop will be heartbroken at the sad news. May the good God help our kind Bishop and assist him in his sad bereavement. He has our heartfelt sympathy, though we hardly believe that he can miss his friend and assistant more than we, the Abbot's spiritual sons, miss his fatherly solicitude.

Abbot Bruno was extremely well read, was an excellent conversationalist and could write or converse on almost any subject. . . . He was a true philanthropist, and the thousands of people whom he aided and benefitted have now lost him whom they can in a true sense call their father. Any settler who has been in or near the Colony for some years, cannot help but admire the progress which has taken place. This progress, none dare gainsay, has been due to the never ceasing efforts of Abbot Bruno to obtain for the settlers the best for soul, mind and body. To this purpose he introduced two Orders of Sisters into the Colony, the Elizabethans and the Ursulines. The first Sisters of St. Elizabeth arrived in the Colony from the convent of Klagenfurt, Austria, in 1911. The blessings of Almighty God have rested visibly upon them, and their number has already materially increased. It was the sad privilege of these sisters to tend the Abbot in his short illness, and to close his eyes in death. It is noteworthy to recall the eagerness with which the Abbot came to Humboldt to these Sisters when he was seriously ill. He might have stayed in Saskatoon and have entered the hospital there, but he returned to his own Sisters, to be as near as possible to his own monastery. The Ursuline nuns are, as far as their number permits, in charge of the parochial schools of the Colony. May God hasten the day when every school in the Colony, or at least in every parish will be under the direction of these Sisters. . . . These two communities of Sisters are a boon and a blessing to the Colony. In their hearts, we trust, the memory of Abbot Bruno will ever be firmly rooted. Likewise may his memory ever remain fresh in the hearts of the settlers, for whose benefit the Abbot planted these communities in their midst, that they might labor and bear fruit a hundredfold.

. . . The monks of St. Peter's Abbey have become dearly attached to their Abbot while he ruled the community. Abbot Bruno has a host of friends, among whom are the Catholic Hierarchy of Canada and the United States, men of all classes of people in North America, ranging from the southernmost Benedictine community in the United States to the world's northernmost missions near Canada's Arctic circle, and many friends in Europe. From Abbot Bruno's eyes there shone forth such a personal magnetism of charity with which his heart overflowed that few could resist it. Anyone who was acquainted with Father Abbot could not help but note in him his characteristic childlike simplicity, frankness and charity in all his dealings with others joined with an utter forgetfulness of self. His commands were ordinarily given in the form of a request. Despite his manifold and difficult duties, trials and troubles, Father Abbot retained his remarkable equanimity. He had a way of performing some of the most menial services about the house without lowering his dignity one iota. In the performance of any of his work there never was the least shadow of ostentation. He often served the sick with his own hand, and would rise at any odd hour of the night to see whether he could serve them. Ought not such fatherly and brotherly love win any heart?"

The article in the St. Peter's Bote ends with the words, "Here was a man who served as a model in the observance of the injunction of our holy Father St. Benedict, speaking of the Abbot, 'Let him aim to be loved rather than feared.'"

The remains of Abbot Bruno were interred in the cemetery of St. Peter's Parish, but were transferred with those of Father John to the Abbey cemetery in 1923. A stately granite monument, a gift of friends of Abbot Bruno, especially from the Volksverein, was erected over his tomb the same year.

The Sisters of St. Elizabeth

The greatest command of God is charity — love of God, which includes love of neighbor. As the fruit of Christ's teaching, hospitals sprang up wherever Christian communities were established. Abbot Bruno recognized the need of a hospital in the colony, and began to look for an order of hospital sisters to found and conduct one within his territory.

The Sisters of St. Elizabeth at Klagenfurt, Austria, celebrated the two hundredth anniversary of their foundation in 1910, and expressed their wish to begin a new foundation. This came to the knowledge of Prior Bruno through Father Alexander Berghold, former pastor of New Ulm, Minnesota, now living in retirement in Austria. Prior Bruno immediately wrote to the Sisters, inviting them to come to St. Peter's Colony. The Sisters accepted the invitation, and on May 14, 1911, the first group, Sisters Augustina Platzer, Philomena Juch and Gabriella Lex, arrived at Muenster.

Father George Trunk, pastor of Villach, Austria, accompanied the Sisters, returning to Europe May 17. For the time being the Sisters were quartered in a small frame building close to the Abbey, and next day were taken to Humboldt to interview Mayor Andreasen and to look for a suitable location for their future hospital. Several offers were made, and the Sisters decided to locate on a 7½ acre plot on the farm of Mr. Philip Flory, bordering the townsite north of Humboldt, close enough to town and yet far enough away for the quiet and privacy proper to a hospital. The sale of this property was completed July 1911. In November of the same year another 2½ acres were purchased from Mr. Clement Kohle.

On May 17, 1911 the Sisters, in company with Prior Bruno, went to Prince Albert to pay their respects to Bishop Pascal and to receive permission for their foundation in his diocese. The Bishop received them with the greatest joy. While in Prince Albert, Prior Bruno made arrangements with the architect Albrechtson to draw up plans for the proposed hospital. In the middle of June the Sisters visited Fulda, Dead Moose Lake, Lake Lenore, Anaheim and St. Gregor and were much impressed with what they saw. On December 11, 1911 the town of Humboldt passed a by-law to assist the construction of the hospital with a grant of $2,500. In order to acquire knowledge of the English language Sisters Philomena and Gabriella went to Duluth, Minnesota, in September. They stayed with the Sisters of St. Benedict until March 1912. Sister Augustina, the temporary superior of the foundation, remained in the Colony, to supervise the necessary work connected with the new foundation.

As soon as the contract for the new hospital was let to J. P. Hansen, September 19, 1911, excavation started. It progressed so favorably that by the beginning of winter the concrete had been poured, the basement was finished and the bricklaying on the outer walls had commenced. In spring work was resumed, but repeated rains and the difficulty of getting skilled laborers interfered with the progress of the building. Father Rudolph, pastor of Humboldt, lent his help by supervising the construction. Despite many difficulties, the two storey structure, 54 x 52 feet, with full basement, chapel, operating room on the second floor, rooms to accomodate 18 patients, quarters for the Sisters above the second floor, kitchen and store rooms, was so far completed that Bishop Pascal was able to bless it October 3, 1912. Abbot Bruno, Prior Peter, Fathers Rudolph and Casmir assisted the bishop at the function.

Since it would have been impossible to conduct a hospital of that size efficiently with only three Sisters, the motherhouse at Klagenfurt sent generous help. On July 26, 1912 the following seven Sisters arrived: Sisters Euphrasia, Salesia, Clementina, Agatha, Helena, Xaveria and Gertrude. The last named Sister was still a novice, but made her vows before Bishop Pascal on April 19, 1913.

The first patient admitted to St. Elizabeth's Hospital was Matthias Strueby of Dead Moose Lake. He was operated for appendicitis by Dr.

First Sisters of the Order of St. Elizabeth on their arrival at Muenster with Fr. Traub

Barry on October 23, 1912. The first female patient to be admitted was Miss Mary Loehr of Muenster C. O. Knapp, grain buyer at Engelfeld, was the first patient to die in the hospital, January 15, 1913. During the last week of June 1913, there were 20 patients in the hospital.

In order to secure additional help for the hospital, Abbot Bruno journeyed to Austria and succeeded in obtaining three more Sisters: Sister Pulcheria Wilhelm, who had been superior of the motherhouse at Klagenfurt for a number of years and under whose term of office the foundation in Saskatchewan had been ratified, and Sister Walburga Swetlin and Seraphina Pfurtscheller, still a novice. Great was the joy of the little community in Humboldt, when the three new Sisters arrived on July 14, 1913.

On August 30, 1913, Abbot Bruno celebrated a Mass in honor of the Holy Ghost in the Sisters' chapel at which, having received the necessary documents from Bishop Pascal, he declared the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Humboldt independent of their motherhouse in Klagenfurt and canonically erected the Convent at Humboldt as a motherhouse. After this Abbot Bruno presided at an election at which Sister Pulcheria was chosen the first Mother Superior. Bishop Pascal ratified the election September 3, 1913. The first Sister to pronounced her vows in the new motherhouse was the novice Sister Seraphina, who on November 24, 1913, dedicated her future life to God and the service of the sick at a Mass celebrated by Abbot Bruno. Miss Agnes Schmidt, a daughter of Mr. Karl Schmidt of Humboldt, was invested the same day as a novice receiving the religious name of Sister Marianna. She was the first girl from St. Peter's Colony to join the Sisters of St. Elizabeth. Father Abbot's assistant at the inspiring ceremony was Prior Peter. Sister Marianna pronounced her first vows on February 10, 1915.

From the opening of the hospital in October 1912 till December 1913, no less than 281 patients were nursed by the Sisters and 128 patients were operated. In 1914 the number of patients treated was 281, 136 of these being operated. In 1914 22 children were born in the hospital. The number of patients admitted in 1915 was 29., increasing to 329 in 1916, and reached 557 in 1919. Through the years the number of patients seeking relief has steadily increased. In 1945 it was 2400, in 1946, 3053, in 1947, 3263, in 1948, 3240, 1949 3784, and in 1950, 3334. From 1945 to 1950 19.134 patients were admitted.

Many improvements have been made during the past forty years, so that today St. Elizabeth's Hospital is rated as one of the finest institutions in the province. The figures quoted prove how necessary the foundation was and what great benefits these Sisters have conferred upon the people of the Colony. They also indicate the incalculable good the Sisters have done, helping by their service and example people suffering from a wide variety of sickness and misfortune. Sincere thanks are due

to the Sisters, but thanks must also be given to Abbot Bruno, who induced them to come to Canada

During its session early in 1915, the Provincial Legislature in Regina granted incorporation rights to the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Humboldt. Certificates as qualified nurses were obtained by Sisters Philomena, Salesia, Clementina and Theodora in December 1917. Sister Theodora (formerly Miss Anna Sieben from Allan, Saskatchewan) was invested as a novice by Bishop Pascal May 3, 1916. Invested on the same day were two young ladies from Leofeld, Rosa Lopinski and Theresa Jungwirth who received the names Sister Elizabeth and Sister Benedicta respectively. The three novices were admitted to vows on October 4, 1917. Since the hospital was too small to admit all the relatives and friends who wished to witness the ceremony, it was held in St. Augustine's Church which was filled to capacity. Among the three young ladies who were received into the Novitiate on October 3, 1917, was Miss Therese Poth of Carmel who was given the name Sister Pulcheria. She became well known to the public in later years as the bursar of the community and superintended the construction of the Central Heating Plant and Laundry.

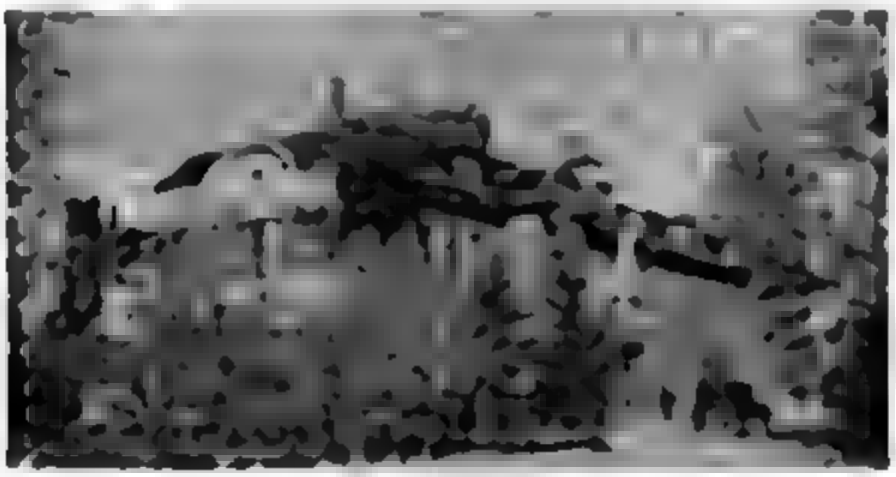
The struggling young community was dealt two severe blows in 1916. On January 8, Sister Augustina Platzer, the first temporary [illegible] died at the age of 45. While attending a sick lady in her home, before the hospital was built, she contracted pleurisy which developed into tuberculosis, a trial which she bore with exemplary patience and resignation. Despite her failing condition she visited many families and collected funds for the completion of the hospital. When she was no longer able to do this work, she kept the books of the hospital. Her peaceful death, which she had foretold in the morning, occurred on January 8. After a Requiem High Mass in the chapel of the Convent January 11, her body was laid to rest in the plot which had been selected for the Sisters' cemetery. This is located a few hundred yards west of the hospital and Father Schmidt erected a beautiful grotto in it which was blessed by Bishop Pascal on one of his visits.

The second severe blow which the young community suffered was the unexpected death of Rev. Mother Pulcheria who died of cancer four weeks after the death of Sister Augustina. An operation performed by Dr. McKenty of Winnipeg assisted by Doctors Barry, Cox and McCutcheon and Sisters Philomena and Salesia, though at first seemingly successful, could not save the life of the beloved Superior. The day after the operation this valiant women who was the soul of the new foundation passed away, February 5, 1916. She was well prepared for death and gave all the necessary instructions before death came, telling the Sisters what kind of coffin she wanted and where she wished to be buried. The funeral took place on February 8 after a Requiem High Mass celebrated by Prior Peter. Abbot Bruno pronounced the absolution and conducted the services at the grave.

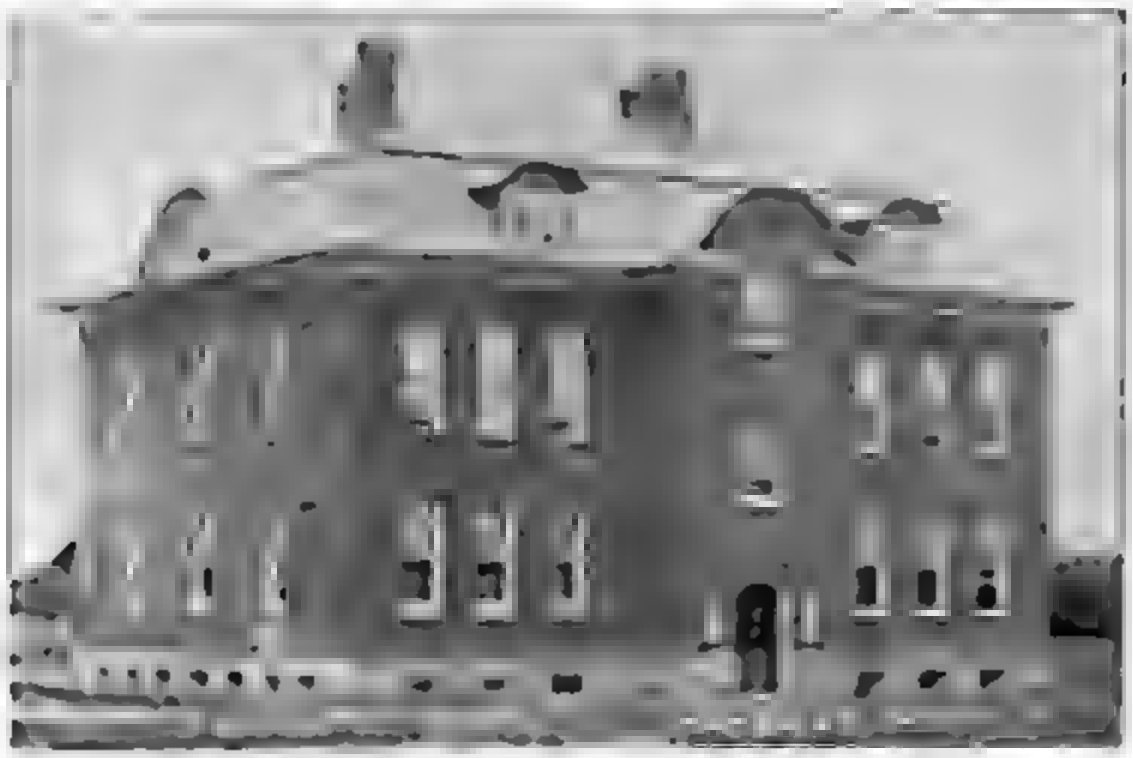
When Father Joseph Wockel went to his old home in Germany during the summer of 1922, he also visited the motherhouse of the Sisters in Klagenfurt, Austria, and the following Sisters came to Canada with him: Sisters Margarita, Jacoba, Maria, Martina, Ottilia and Bonaventura. The last European Sisters to join the Convent at Humboldt was Sister Frances Roessler. She made the journey from Austria to Canada by plane in October 1947.

Like Abbot Bruno, Bishop Pascal was a real father to the Sisters of St. Elizabeth. On April 2, 1916, he presided at the election of the new mother superior at which Sister Euphrasia Weiss was chosen to head the community for the next three years. During her term of office an isolation hospital was erected a distance west of the main building, and a two storey brick building 32 x 26 feet, was built to the south of the hospital to serve as Novitiate and laundry. The mounting number of patients made it imperative to think of enlarging the hospital. Consequently, in 1918, it was decided to add a two storey wing 68x37 feet to the north of the existing building. The people of Humboldt and the surrounding district heartily endorsed the project. Excavation work was begun before the winter of 1918, and in 1920 the building was completed. It cost over $60,000. At the election held on April 2, 1919, Mother Euphrasia was succeeded by Mother Walburga as superior.

The first resident chaplain at the hospital was Father William Hein, O.S.B., a member of St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He



St. Elizabeth Hospital, Agra



First unit of St. Elizabeth Hospital and Convent

was suffering from respiratory ailments and was sent to Canada to recover. Not finding the relief he sought he returned to the United States. Oc- succeeded as chaplain by Father Peter Fischer, O.S.B., for a short time and later by Father Bonifice Puth. On September 20, 1916, Father Thaddeus Schmidt, formerly a White Father and pastor of Bonne Madone in the diocese of Prince Albert was appointed chaplain. Father Schmidt undertook a trip to Klagenfurt to ask for more Sisters who were needed in the expanding hospital. Though he was authorized by the Canadian Government to bring a group of Sisters, he encountered many difficulties with the officials of various European countries, so that the Sisters were three months enroute before reaching Humboldt, May 10, 1920. This group included Sisters Mary Elizabeth, Rosana, Alexia, and Christina; also Miss Christina Christoffel and Miss Rosina Luschin.

In 1923 Father Schmidt suffered a paralytic stroke from which he never fully recovered. In July 1926, while visiting the Sisters' foundation at Scott, Saskatchewan, he became seriously ill. He was taken to St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, where he died peacefully July 25. His body was taken to Humboldt, where after a solemn Requiem High Mass by Monsignor C. Bourdel of Prud'homme assisted by Father Lawrence as deacon and Father Nicolet of Battleford as Subdeacon he was laid to rest in the Sisters' cemetery. Prior Peter preached the funeral oration, pronounced the absolution and conducted the services at the grave. M. Bandoux, a seminarian, now Co-adjutor Archbishop of St. Boniface was master of ceremonies.

Father Schmidt's successor was Father Benedict, who had assisted him for a year. Father Benedict celebrated his silver jubilee of ordination at the hospital, July 4, 1926. When his old illness, recurring heart attacks, returned, he was given an assistant in 1944 in the person of Father Cosmas. Four years later Father Paul succeeded Father Cosmas. Father Paul celebrated his silver jubilee of the priesthood August 2, 1950. In 1952 he was succeeded by Father Luke. Father Benedict had the consolation of celebrating the golden jubilee of his profession as a Benedictine in September 1946, and his golden jubilee of priesthood July 2, 1951. Both celebrations took place in the chapel of the hospital in the presence of Abbot Severin.

Physicians attending the Hospital were: Doctors D. B. Neely, J. L. Barry, H. R. Fleming, James C. King, G. F. Heidgerken, Sklar, Cox, R. G. Yoerger, J. W. Herringer, H. H. Bruser, Gray, McCutcheon, B. W. Hargarten, H. A. Henges, J. M. Ogilvie, M. G. Kunkel, F. S. Yandel, W. J. Doyle, R. D. Patchell, C. J. Chouinard and F. Murphy.

October 4, 1927, when Abbot Michael invested Miss Cunigunde Schneider, now Sister Alphonsa, the number of Sisters had increased to 23. That afternoon he blessed the bell of the chapel. In 1951 the community had over 100 professed Sisters despite the fact that between the death of the first two Sisters in 1916 and the end of 1951 God called 17 more Sisters to their reward. Sisters Ottilia, Pia, Walburga, Gertrude, Euphrasia, Catherine, Armella, Jacoba, Xaveria, Philomena, Stephanie, Margaretha, Laurentia, Agatha, Christina, Frances and Gabriela. Sister Salesia had returned to Klagenfurt, she died there of sheer exhaustion, a martyr of devotion to suffering humanity, while attending the wounded soldiers during the Second World War.

In 1928 the hospital had to be enlarged a second time at a cost of approximately $75,000. A large wing was added to the west and an extension to the north. In the basement of this wing are the kitchen and dining rooms, on the first floor is the maternity department while the chapel is on the second floor. The chapel is the beauty spot of the institution. It was decorated by Professor Berthold Imhoff. In 1945-46 the central heating plant and laundry was built, and in 1949-50 the nurses' residence, both west of the hospital. At the time of writing the hospital is again overcrowded and plans are maturing to erect a 75 bed hospital southwest of the present site.

The blessings which the Lord has poured out upon the inhabitants of Humboldt and district by giving them the Sisters of St. Elizabeth did not remain only in that locality, but went far beyond. In 1925 Father Francis Palm, O.M.I., a brother of Father Rudolph, O.S.B., asked the Sisters to found a hospital at Macklin, Saskatchewan, in the St. Joseph's Colony. In November of the same year Abbot Bruno and Mother Pulcheria went to Macklin to investigate conditions. But it was not

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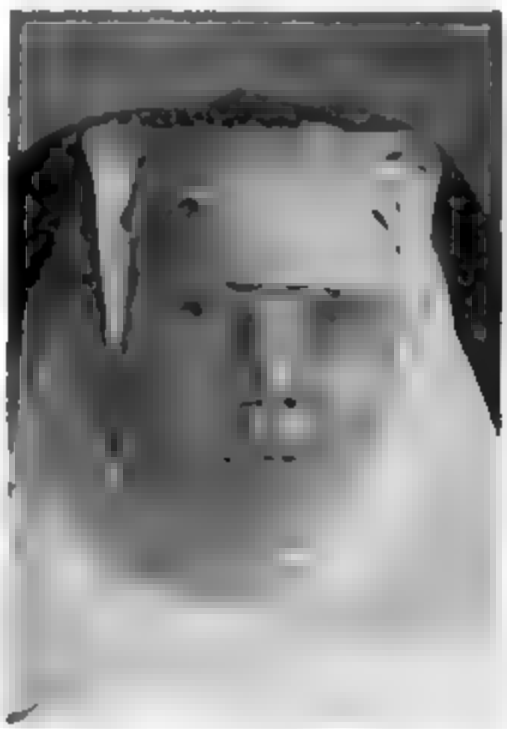
Chapel of St Elizabeth's Hospital



Mother Polchesia, Superior General at Kingsville

until 1921 that the Sisters, urged by Father William Brabender, O.M.I., decided to found a daughter house at Macklin. A large house was purchased there, and the surrounding district supported the venture by a grant of $2,500. The house was converted into a temporary hospital in 1922 and was used for that purpose until a two storey brick building, St. Joseph's Hospital, modern in every respect, was completed and blessed by Bishop Prud'homme in May 1927. Dr. F. L. Eid has been attending the patients in this hospital up to the present.

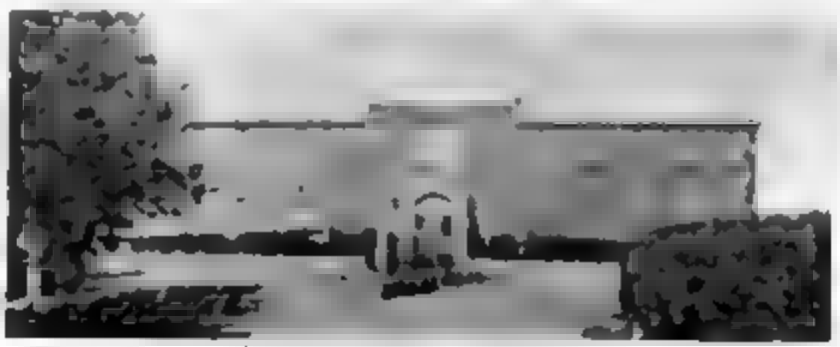
At Scott, Saskatchewan, another hospital was in charge of the Sisters for several years. At the request of Bishop Prud'homme the Sisters took over the hospital at Rosthern on January 1, 1936, but on account of circumstances beyond their control, had to be abandoned later.

A third hospital, St. Michael's, was founded at Cudworth. As at Macklin here also a large house was used as a temporary hospital and the patients were attended by Dr. Longault for several years. A two storey brick building was erected in 1927 and blessed by Abbot Severin May 29, 1927. Dr. Jerome H. Schropp is the attending physician. At the time of the silver jubilee of the hospital, which was observed by the entire district June 1, 1952, a beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin, a gift of Dr. Schropp was blessed by Prior Peter in its park north of the hospital.

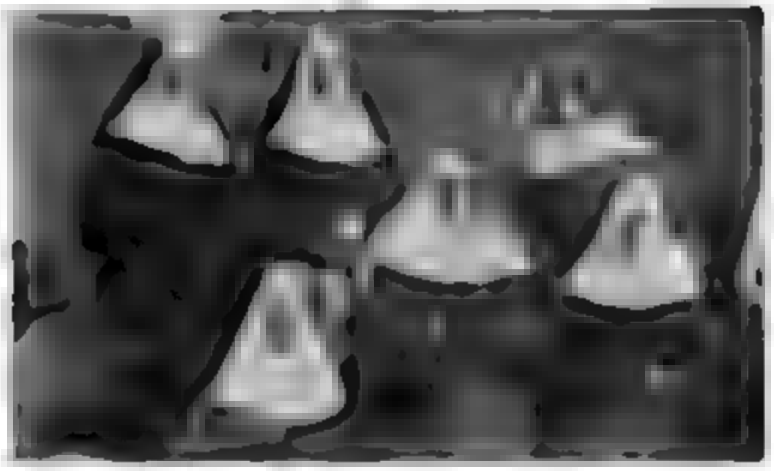
At the request of the Oblate Fathers the Sisters took charge of the kitchen and laundry of the Oblate House of Studies, Battleford, in 1932. In October 1950 when the new College at North Battleford was completed the students were transferred to the new buildings while the former became St. Charles Scholasticate. At the new College the Sisters likewise took charge of the kitchen. In July 1951 the Sisters were withdrawn from the Scholasticate.

During the summer of 1950 the Sisters took charge of the housekeeping duties at the Retreat House of Mount St. Francis, Cochrane, Alta., conducted by the Franciscan Fathers. This work was at first undertaken only in the summer months but was later extended when the Franciscans began to conduct these retreats throughout the year.

In the Fall of 1950 the Sisters also opened a house in Edmonton, Alta., where they have charge of the kitchen at St. Anthony's College, conducted by the Franciscan Fathers. To this rather long list of the extensive activities of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth must be added that ten of their number have been in charge of the kitchen and laundry of St. Peter's College for the past forty years.



St. Joseph's Hospital, Macklin, Sask.



[illegible] Sisters to arrive in St. Peter's Colony

First Ursuline Convent and School, Marysburg, now St. [illegible]
Little log parish church in center foreground.

The Ursuline Nuns

Abbot Bruno well understood the value of good schools, and his ardent desire, was to secure good teachers for the settlers of St. Peter's Colony. His choice fell upon the Ursulines, an order whose prime objective is the education of youth.

On July 24, 1913, Mother Xaveria Loens, the Mother Superior of the Ursuline Convent, Cologne, Germany, and Mother Clara visited Muenster, Bruno, and other parts of the Colony. Then travelled to Prince Albert to interview Bishop Pascal. The result of the discussions with Bishop Pascal and Abbot Bruno was that on September 2, 1913, Mother Clara, a member of the Ursuline Convent of Hasselluenne, Germany, and Mother Angela, a member of the Convent at Cologne, Germany, arrived at Muenster, and next day took charge of the parochial school there. Until the school building was constructed classes were held in the sacristy of the church. This was partitioned off, and although both "class rooms" were heated by big stoves, the Sisters and children at times suffered from the cold. Until the Sisters' residence was completed, they lived with the Sisters of St. Elizabeth who had charge of the monastery kitchen. In two weeks, the children under the guiding hand of Mother Angela, sang a simple choral High Mass to the joy and edification of the parishioners. Immediately after the arrival of the Sisters, work was begun on their home. John Kraus of Marysburg did the mason work for the foundation, and August Wasserman of Muenster the carpenter work. The home was completed by the beginning of 1914, and the Sisters moved in on January 3, and Abbot Bruno blessed it on January 5. Sister Notburga arrived December 17, 1913, to take care of the kitchen, and Mother Agatha arrived on January 14, 1914.

The news that the Ursuline Sisters had arrived in Muenster to teach in the parochial school aroused the desire to have them take over schools in other parishes. Leofeld at once started to erect a large school building to contain the Sisters' dwelling as well. Work was carried on during the winter of 1913-14, the building was completed in the spring of 1914, and was blessed by Bishop Pascal May 22, 1914. The parish of Bruno sent Mr. Hornsch, April 18, 1914, as a delegate to Muenster, to petition Abbot Bruno to send Sisters to take over the parish school. Mother Clara could not refuse, and the next day went to Bruno to begin teaching. The pressure to which the Sisters were subjected was somewhat relieved with the arrival of Mother Xaveria and Sister Laurentia from Winnipeg, April 23, 1914. The former taught at Muenster while Sister Laurentia was sent to Bruno to keep house for Mother Clara. Mother Anna Catherine arrived during the course of the summer. These Sisters had been teaching at Winnipeg and had come from various motherhouses in Germany, Hasselluenne, Cologne, and Dorsten. Since the majority of them belonged to Hasselluenne, it was this convent which undertook the responsibility for the foundation in St. Peter's Colony. This fact explains why later Mother Anna [illegible] returned to Germany and Mother Angela went to Wilcox, Sask., where the foundation from Dorsten was re-established after the buildings of the convent were destroyed by fire at Grayson, Sask.

The little band of seven Ursulines was augmented by the arrival on August 14, 1914, of Sisters Antonia, Ursula, Paula, Walburga, Cordula, Vincentia and Crescentia. These seven were from the Convent of Hasselluenne excepting Sister Ursula who came from Dorsten. They left Germany just before the outbreak of the war on the German steamship Wittekind and were well out at sea when the news reached them of hostilities between England and Germany. From then on the voyage became exciting, since the Wittekind ran the risk of being captured by British warships. In order to avoid this, the entire boat was painted during the night to camouflage it and to make it resemble a neutral ship. As a rule sailors dislike fog, but on this voyage the Captain approached the Sisters and said, "Sisters, pray for fog, so that we may escape

Parish School at Bruno

capture." Fog there was, plenty of it! As a precaution, the Wattekind changed course and landed at Boston instead of New York. The Sisters experienced no difficulty with the Canadian Immigration Officers and all seven arrived safely at Muenster August 14, 1914.

The parochial schools of Muenster, Leofeld and Bruno opened on September 1, 1914, and were staffed by the following Sisters: at Muenster Mother Clara, Mother Xaveria and Sister Cordula; at Leofeld Mother Ursula, Sisters Anna Catharine, Walburga and Laurentia; at Bruno, Mothers Antonia and Agatha and Sister Crescentia. The same year a spacious school building and Sisters' dwelling combined was erected under the direction of Father Casimir at Dead Moose Lake (Marysburg) and the school opened on January 7, 1915, staffed by Mother Clara and Sisters Walburga and Vincentia. The building pleased the Sisters so well that they chose it as their center and made it their temporary Convent in 1916. More Sisters had been promised by the motherhouse at Haseluenne, but because of the war they could not be sent. Some of the more populated parishes of the Colony begged for Sisters for their parochial schools, among them: Humboldt, Watson, Lake Lenore and Annaheim. Divine Providence again came to their aid. Young ladies of the Colony, the daughters of settlers, expressed the wish to dedicate their lives to God and the instruction of the children as Ursulines. Their wish, however, could not be fulfilled immediately, since the Ursulines were still a dependent community and could not have a canonical novitiate here. All communication with the motherhouse was cut off, and though it was understood that the community should eventually become independent and be raised to the rank of a motherhouse, for the time being, it seemed nothing could be done.

The resourceful Abbot Bruno found a way to solve the difficulty. He advised Bishop Pascal to draw up a document and forward it to Rome requesting the Holy See to permit the Ursulines to open a novitiate and accept aspirants to their Order. The Holy See granted the petition and the necessary rescript arrived in March 1916, stipulating that a separate motherhouse, independent of Haseluenne, be erected in St. Peter's Colony. Accordingly, on May 30, 1916, Bishop Pascal, accompanied by Abbot Bruno, went to Dead Moose Lake and declared the Ursuline foundation in St. Peter's Colony a motherhouse of the Order of St. Ursula, with the right of conducting its own novitiate. Rev. Mother Clara, who from the beginning of the foundation was the soul of all the activities of the Sisters, was appointed the first canonical Mother Superioress.

The next day, the feast of St. Angela, the foundress of the Sisters of St. Ursula, two young ladies asked for admission to the new community. They were Miss Mary Windschiegl of Watson, Sask., (a niece of Father Prior Peter), and Miss Mary Pfenel of Albany, Minnesota, then teacher at the Puger School. They joined the Sisters on November 1, and were clothed with the Ursuline habit August 8, 1917, receiving the names of Sisters Josepha and Benedict. Soon two other young ladies followed. Miss Mary Loehndorf of Leofeld, now Sister Margaret, and Miss Katherine Koenning of Bruno, now Sister Mary. It is significant that the first three of those early candidates bore the name Mary, while the fourth received that beautiful name in religion. Our Lady was indeed showing her interest in the new foundation.

Sister Josepha and Sister Benedict pronounced their vows on August 20, 1919, and Miss Alodia Muench and Miss Frances Weber, both of Muenster, were received into the novitiate. They received the names in religion of Sisters Theresia and Magdalene. Father Prior Peter was delegated by the Very Rev. Jan, O.M.I., Vicar General of the diocese of Prince Albert, to preside at the first profession of vows in the Order of St. Ursula, conducted in St. Peter's Colony. He was assisted by Fathers Dominic and Joseph.

Officially the Ursuline community was now established as a motherhouse. However, since they did not own any land or buildings (their temporary motherhouse at Dead Moose Lake was parish property), and since they had not been able to bring any money from Germany, their motherhouse was, as it were, hanging in the air. They had no place in the Colony they could call their home. Dead Moose Lake was not considered an ideal place for their permanent foundation, since it was far out in the country, too distant from the railroad to be

practical. They were directed to Bruno as a possible location, and Bruno received them joyfully. Father Leo, pastor of Bruno, did all in his power to support the plan. A tract of land, north of town, near the Church, was secured, and the parish pledged itself to donate the sum of $5,000.00 toward the new building, to do all the excavating and hauling of building material free of charge. Abbot Bruno wholeheartedly countenanced the undertaking and appealed to the settlers of the Colony to contribute financially. The work of excavating, under the direction of Mr. Henry Dust, started in the fall of 1918 and as soon as the frost was out of the ground was continued in the spring of 1919. The building was 100 x 44 feet, three storeys high with full basement. The chapel was located on the first floor on the west side. Under date of December 20, 1918 the Ursulines were legally incorporated under the title "The Ursuline Nuns of Bruno."

While the work of construction was proceeding at a rapid pace during the summer of 1919, the Lord evidently considered the mission of Abbot Bruno completed. His last official act within St. Peter's Colony was to preside at the election of the Mother Superior, May 30, 1919. On that day the three year term of office of Mother Clara expired, and Mother Antonia was elected to succeed her. The election was held at the temporary convent at Marysburg. The Ursuline community numbered 13 Sisters, four novices and two candidates.

The cornerstone of the new Convent at Bruno was blessed and laid at a semi-private ceremony by Father Prior Peter, June 22, 1919. The building, intended as Sisters' residence and Academy, was completed before Christmas the same year and solemnly blessed by Abbot Michael, November 9, 1919. Now the Sisters could rejoice; they had a home. On July 9, 1921, Mother Antonia left for Germany and returned October 17, with five more Sisters from the Convent of Haselvenne, so that the number of Ursulines available to instruct the youth of the colony was increased to 26. The new arrivals were: Sisters Mechtild, Scholastica, Clementine, Perpetua and Clothildis. On August 17, 1933, three novices arrived in Bruno from Haselvenne, Sisters Anna, Christina and Ludwina.

Mother Antonia was head of the community for nine years, three terms of three years each. These years were years of progress and accomplishment. Moreover, she filled the office of novice mistress, superintending the training of the young religious, from 1919 to 1947. During the years she was superior, membership in the community increased, which made it possible to open new schools, at Lake Lenore, 1922, Watson, 1924, Humboldt, 1927 and Annaheim 1927. In 1936 she suffered a serious infection, which necessitated the amputation of a leg. Despite this handicap she made herself useful to the community, instructing the novices and translating articles and books for the use of the community. One of her former pupils (Mrs. Maurice Conner) characterized her former teacher at the time of her golden jubilee, August 30, 1943, thus: "Mother Antonia was the ideal teacher and Mother Superior. We of that first graduating class, the class of 1922-23, knew no other 'Reverend Mother' and we loved her as one set apart to be especially regarded and respected not only for her high office, but particularly because of the inspiring leadership she gave us. Each of us felt that her interest in us was individual, personal, and wholly unselfish. Gently but firmly she took our girlish ideas and fancies and day-dreams and guided them to wiser and more mature viewpoints and ideals. Gently but firmly she took our little misdemeanors, and by means of a 'little talk in the parlor' or measured words in the classroom, led us to better acts. Always she succeeded in making us feel that she was right, and so we tried to act accordingly. In her we truly saw Christ-like action, and I know that each of us felt our lives enriched through having known her as we did." When anybody was in suffering, she would say, "Turn your pain into gain." She was a valiant woman and a pillar for the young community. She died April 19, 1950, at the age of 80 years.

Two more schools were taken over by the Ursulines in 1950, the one in Englefeld and the other in Carmel. At all these schools conducted by the Sisters they have their own residence and a little chapel where the Blessed Sacrament, the source of their strength, is reserved.

After the expiration of Mother Antonia's third term of office, Mother Clara, who had guided the community during the first years, was again elected, for two consecutive terms, six years, during

which the foundation was consolidated and firmly rooted. Vocations from the Colony and beyond continued to come, so that when her terms of office were over, July 1934, the Ursuline mother house in Bruno numbered 55 Sisters.

At the election, July 10, 1934, under the supervision of Abbot Severin, Mother Scholastica Bolwin was elected Mother Superior. She had come to Canada when Mother Antonia had gone to Haselueanne to beg for more Sisters in 1921, and made her perpetual vows at Bruno a year later. When she was elected she was 40 years old. And so well did she guide them that they re-elected her for five additional terms of three years each. With the exception of one year at Chatham, Ont., for the continuation of her studies, she spent all her years at the Convent in Bruno, where she was in turn teacher and principal at the Academy. It was Mother Scholastica's constant desire to intensify the Christ-life in the souls of all with whom she came into contact. She used every opportunity to bring souls closer to Christ. Education, prayer, conferences, zeal and prudence were her means. Her prayer for the children was realized in 1939, when the Catechetical Correspondence Course for the school children of St. Peter's Colony was entrusted to the Ursulines, so that today every Catholic boy and girl in the colony receives the course in Christian Doctrine. When the people of Europe, made destitute by the ravages of war, clamored for help Mother Scholastica's charity knew no bounds. She saw in them Christ's poor, and in an all-out effort to assist them, collected clothing which the community remodelled and renovated. By word and example she encouraged the community to pray and sacrifice in aid of the needy and to beg God's mercy on the suffering world.

In order to purify and beautify His spouse the more, the good Lord placed a heavy cross on her shoulders. She became very ill in November 1951, and the doctors diagnosed her affliction as cancer. Treatments at the hospital in Saskatoon offered only temporary relief, and though most ardent prayers were offered for her recovery the Lord did not see fit to work a miracle. She died on March 21, 1952, the feast of St. Benedict, the patron of monks, and powerful patron of the dying, who had a twin sister, St. Scholastica. Mother Scholastica was only 58 years of age when she died.

The Rev. Mothers Antonia and Scholastica are not the only two Sisters whom God took to Himself. In the little cemetery, north of the Convent, are eight graves, where the mortal remains of Ursulines rest. They are besides the two Superioresses already mentioned, Sisters Gerarda, Ursula, Crescentia, Notburga, Mechtild and Xaveria. The last mentioned Sister died on May 30, 1951, the vigil of the feast of St. Angela, the foundress of the Ursuline Order.

The motherhouse of the Ursulines at Bruno has progressed to such a degree that the present Convent is no longer able to meet all its requirements. The number of the Sisters has increased to 80, and though a number of frame buildings were erected, these were not sufficient to relieve the congestion. The chapel too, is no longer large enough. According to plans worked out by Rev. Mother Scholastica and her councillors, a large addition was to be constructed in 1951, but owing to uncertain world conditions and other difficulties such as high wages, scarcity and high cost of building materials, the execution of this plan had to be postponed. However, work was begun during 1952 on part of the plan.

On March 29, 1952, all the voting Sisters assembled at the Convent to elect a new Mother Superior. Their choice fell upon Mother Catherina, the daughter of Fred Distel and Catharina nee Broestel, both deceased. She was the only child in the family which homesteaded about five miles east of Marysburg. Rev. Mother Catherina is the first daughter of a settler of St. Peter's Colony to be Superior at Bruno. She was born in North Dakota and came to Canada with her parents as a child. Abbot Severin presided at the election.

The chaplains of the Ursuline Sisters were the following: Father Casimir was the first chaplain while the Convent was located at Dead Moose Lake (Marysburg), Father Leo was chaplain from the time the Sisters moved to Bruno until 1927 when he became pastor of St. Peter's Church, Muenster, and was replaced by Father Bernard from 1927 until 1945. Since that time Father Martin, who resides at Muenster goes to Bruno regularly over the week-end for services on all Sundays and holidays of obligation.

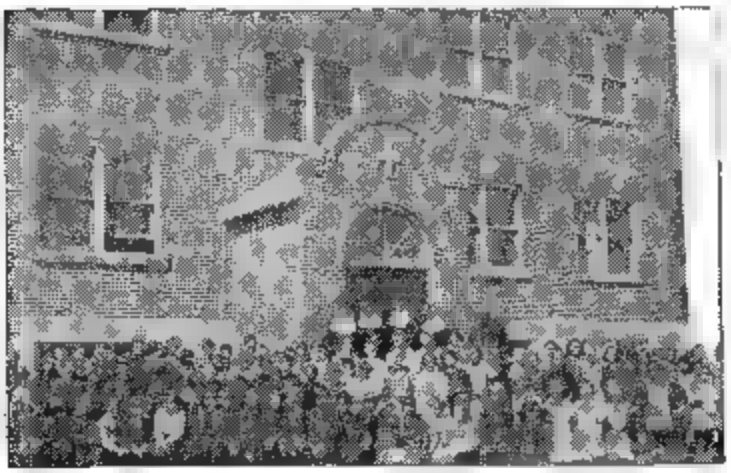
Who can count the number of children that passed through the Ursuline schools? At present,

about 1200 are attending the grade schools. The parents in these school districts are indeed fortunate to be able to entrust their children to the Sisters whose sole aim is to instill in the minds and hearts of their pupils the appreciation of true values which make for permanent happiness. Through the pupils this influence for good reaches to the families and so to the community.

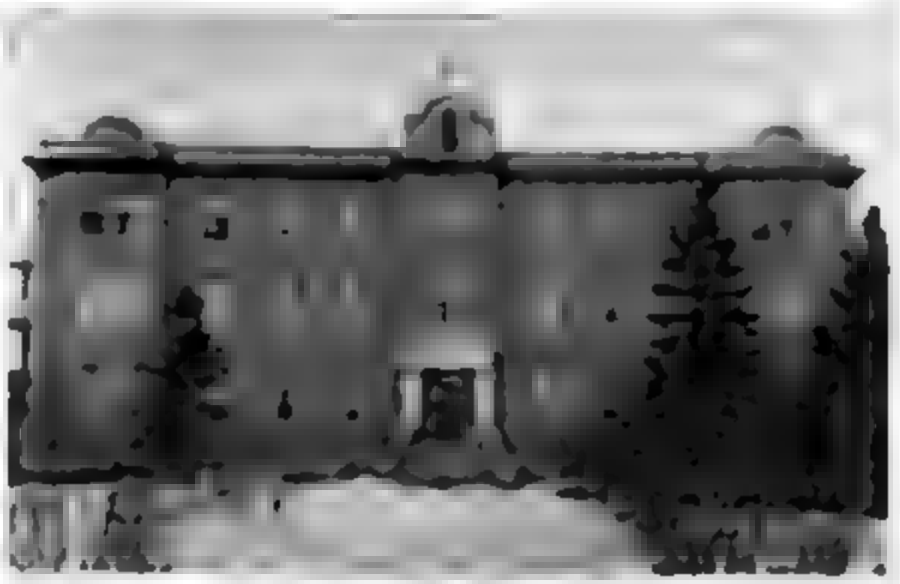
More intensified is the work done by the Sisters through the academy, that training center for the Catholic girl. Owing to limited accomodations, St. Ursula's has been able to find room for about two-thirds of the students it has on its waiting list each fall. To date approximately 700 have been enrolled in its classes. Former academy girls are found in various walks of life, from teachers, nurses and stenographers near home, to women in uniform in the armed services and missionary workers in foreign lands. However, the majority of the girls become mothers of families, and it is here that the most good is wrought. The lessons learned in academy days are transmitted to a succeeding generation.

St. Ursula's Academy, through the Alumnae Association, has joined the Canadian Federation of Convent Alumnae (CFCA) and thus enjoys the benefits of united action in furthering the ideals of Catholic Convent Education.

Catholic parents of the Abbey Nullius should have the privilege of seeing their young people attend Catholic institutions. With this in view the Ursuline Convent is planning an extension to include larger classrooms as soon as the chapel, now under construction, is completed.



Separate School, Lake Lenore.



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New Wing being added.

Abbot Michael Ott, O S B.

Abbot Michael

The Very Rev. Michael Ott, O. S. B., Ph. D., Subprior of St. John's Abbey, Minnesota, was chosen on July 23, 1919, to succeed Abbot Bruno and the choice was confirmed by the Holy See on September 22. He had been on the teaching staff of the college and seminary for nearly twenty-five years. He was known as a scholar and a philosopher, and had written numerous articles for the Catholic Encyclopedia. The news of his election reached him while he was conducting a retreat for the Benedictine Fathers of St. Martin's Abbey, Lacey, Washington. He was often called upon to conduct retreats, and had conducted one at St. Peter's Abbey in 1918. Though he would be hard to replace at St. John's, Abbot Peter, already known for his generosity towards St. Peter's Colony, consented to his election, and the Abbot-Elect wired July 24, that "taking it to be the will of God, I accept the election with a heavy heart, hoping that with the help of God and the cooperation of the Reverend Fathers I shall be able to bear the heavy burden."

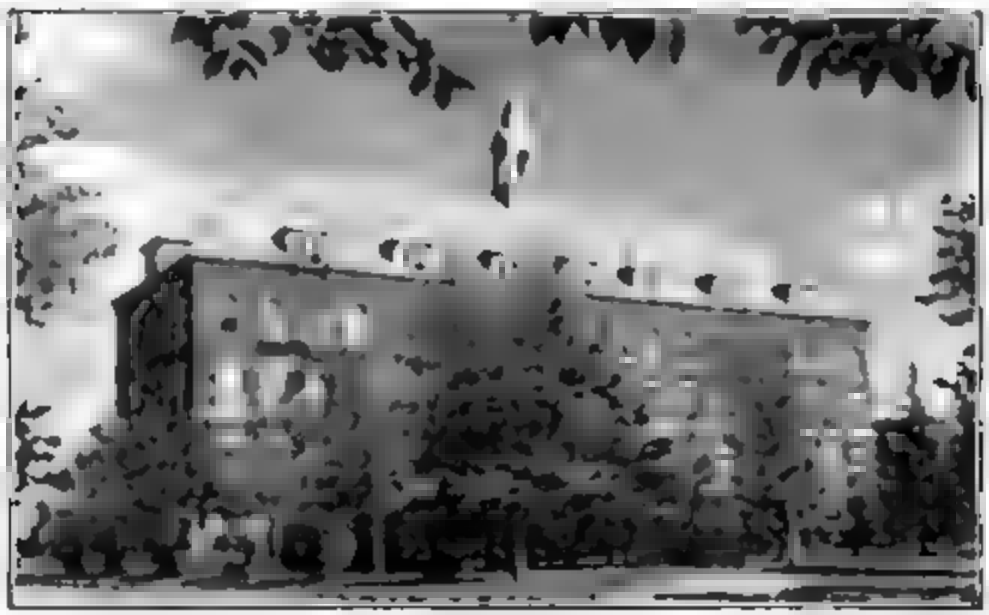
The new Abbot arrived on October 10, with Father Lawrence who had been visiting relatives in the United States, and Father Fridolin Tembreull, O.S.B., whom Abbot Peter permitted to join St. Peter's Abbey. He was given a joyful welcome. On October 12 he preached his first sermon in St. Peter's Church and stressed the necessity of having a college. The feast of the Apostles, Sts. Simon and Jude, October 28, was set for the solemn blessing of the new Abbot. A collection was to be taken up on that day for the future St. Peter's College, and a drive for funds throughout the Colony was to be inaugurated as soon as possible.

Abbot Michael was blessed by Bishop Vincent Wehrle, O.S.B., of Bismarck, North Dakota, in the beautiful and solemn function which closely resembles the consecration of a Bishop. Bishop Wehrle pontificated, assisted by Rt. Rev. M. Pilon, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Edmonton as Presbyter Assistant, Fathers P. Hilland, O.M.I., of Winnipeg, as deacon and L. Nandzik, O.M.I., of Fish Creek as subdeacon, Very Rev. A. Jan, O.M.I., of Saskatoon and P. Nicolet, of Battleford as deacons of honor, Fathers H. Boening, O.M.I., and D. Gamache as dalmatics, Fathers Chrysostom and Matthias as plivials. Fathers H. Boening, O.M.I., P. Habets, O.M.I., Th. Nandzik, O.M.I., Lawrence, O.S.B., Clement Dimpfl, O.S.B., Benedict, O.S.B., Casimir, O.S.B., acted as chaplains to the attending bishops and abbots in the sanctuary. Abbot Michael's assistant Abbots were Rt. Rev. Bernard Menges, O.S.B., of St. Bernard's Abbey, Cullman, Alabama, and Rt. Rev. Oswald Baran, O.S.B., of St. Martin's Abbey, Washington. Among the distinguished visitors were Bishop J. T. McNally of Calgary, Bishop Ovid Charlebois, O.M.I., Vicar Apostolic of Keewatin, Abbot Ernest Heimstetter, O.S.B., of Newark, N. J., President of the American Cassinese Congregation, Abbot Peter Engel, O.S.B., of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., and many other priests and laymen. A number of alumni of St. John's University, Collegeville, former pupils of Abbot Michael, were in the church to witness the elevation of their former professor to the dignity of Abbot. The ceremonies connected with the blessing of an Abbot are of rare occurrence and many made use of this opportunity to witness them. Father Fridolin and Fr. Marcellus Mayer, the latter, a former member of St. John's Abbey who had shortly before joined St. Peter's Abbey acted as masters of ceremonies. The students of St. John's University had delegated William Krumpelmann to present a spiritual bouquet and the Knights of Columbus of Humboldt presented an illuminated address to the new Abbot. (William Krumpelmann, entered the novitiate at St. John's Abbey in 1919, joined St. Peter's Abbey the next year, was given the name of Fr. Cosmas and was ordained December 23, 1923.)

ST. PETER'S COLLEGE

The collection for the new College taken up at the blessing of the Abbot amounted to $555 90. Two weeks later the contributions for this important undertaking had mounted to $1,649.10 by February 1, 1920, to $6,790.00, and by January to $15 950.00 The drive of the Knights [illegible]mbus started in June 15, 1920, and the [illegible] was $50,000. Actualy subscribed in cash and notes was the sum of $55 702 53, but the final results amounted to [illegible] fine record, of which the Knights of [illegible] of the Humboldt Council can be proud Their efforts were highly appreciated Special praise is due to St Peter's Parish whose members not only contributed about $10.000 in cash, but did all the excavating and the hauling of the materia to the building site. This latter work certain had the value of $12 000 On March 7 19 Abbot Michael spoke to the members of the Volksverein at Muenster and stated that the College would cost about $120,000. On January 26, 1922, the St. Peter's Bote informed its readers that it actually cost $180,000 and the cost of the furnishings of the building would demand an additional heavy outlay The plans of the College and the Abbey buildings had already ordered at a cost of $1 500 by Prior Alfred, from a firm of architectural artists in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and one wing of the building, 50 x 169 three storeys high, with basement and attic, to ve accommodation for 150 to 200 students, was now to be erected

The first sod was broken and the excavation started on June 28, 1920. Father Andrew Straub, O S B., a member of St. John's Abbey, a man with a wealth of building experience, arrived at this time to superintend the work By the end of July the excavation work was practically completed and on August 13, 1920, Father Andrew poured the first shovel of cement for the basement. While doing this he recited the following "In nomine Sanctissimae Trinitatis, Patris, Filii, Spiritus Sancti, Sanctissimae Virginis Mariae,



St. Peter's Abbey and College, Muenster

Sancti Joseph, Sanctorum Apostolorum Petri et Pauli atque Beatissimi Patris Nostri Benedicti cujus crucem sub fundamento deposui, primam palam cementi superimposui. Muenster, Sask Canada, August 13, 1920, hora 10:25 a.m. P A." Translated this means: "In the name of the most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, the holy Apostles Peter and Paul and the most Holy Father Benedict, whose cross (medal I have laid beneath the foundation, I have poured the first shovel full of cement upon it Muenster, Sask., Canada August 13, 1920 at 10:25 a. m., P Andrew

The contract for the erection of the college was given to Bonas Brothers and on October 11 the concrete walls of the basement were completed. so that some mason work then could be begun. Six carloads of Manitoba limestone had arrived and were hauled by the people of Muenster to the building site. In appreciation for the work they did gratis, a picnic was arranged for them on September 5 Father Andrew went to Minnesota that fall, but returned on April 27 1921, to continue supervising the work until it was completed. He returned to Minnesota on November 17 1921

Work on the building was resumed on May 1921, at first with only 12 men, but as the tempo increased 35 to 40 were engaged. In June the third storey was begun. A memorable day was the laying of the cornerstone on June 29. 1921, the patronal feast of the Colony, Abbey and College. In the presence of about 3000 people, Abbot Michael celebrated a pontifical High Mass. on a small hill to the southwest of the building, at which Father Prior Peter assisted as Presbyter, Fathers Lawrence and Fridolin as deacons of honor, Fathers Joseph Wickel and Matthias as deacon and subdeacon of the mass and Fathers Matthew and Theodore as masters of ceremony Father Casimir directed the Muenster Choir. recently organized by Philip Muench, and Miss Rosa Nenzel played the organ. After the pontifical Mass all marched to the northwest corner of the College, while the bands from Annaheim. Lake Lenore, Pilger and St. Benedict under the direction of Father Bernard played hymns Father Abbot blessed the cornerstone upon which Charles Bonas had chiseled the year 1921 and a cross of St. Benedict In the stone were placed a document and a copy of the St Peter's Bote. The Abbot addressed the people from an elevated platform, telling them that he had offered Mass in thanksgiving to Almighty d for all the graces He had conferred upon them during the past eighteen years. It was due to the sacrifices of the good people of the Colony that St Peters Abbey was enabled to undertake such an important work. He thanked them for all they had done, especially the parishioners of Muenster "This day," he said, "will go down in the history of St. Peter's Colony as a day of special significance." Thirty delegates from fourteen parishes arranged an elaborate program which was carried out without a hitch under the chairmanship of W F Hargarten and A. W Loehr Edward Bruning was secretary and Father Casimir treasurer Proceeds of the picnic which were for the interior furnishing of the College netted over $3000.00. Speeches, extolling the necessity of an institution of higher education with genuine religious guidance, were delivered by Henry M. Therres, M.L.A., Ernest Gardner Father J. C. Sunnett of the Irish Colony and Father Theo. Schweers, O.M.I., of Allan, Sask Abbot Michael spoke in English, repeating in substance what he had said that morning in German The Theatrical Society of Bruno contributed a number of plays that evening to a highly appreciative audience. Dana, Bruno, Carmel, Humboldt, St. Gregor and Muenster declared a half holiday Lake Lenore a full holiday, so that the people were able to attend the function

The College was ready for occupancy in November 1921 The transfer of the community from the abbey building north of Muenster to the new building south of town took place on November 10, 1921 At night, when all the electric lights were turned on, the new College made an impressive picture. Steam heating was furnished for the first time on November 14th, and the first meal prepared by the Sisters of St Elizabeth in the new building was served on November 16 The school opened without delay, 39 students enrolling the first year Father Fridolin was appointed Prior on October 25, shortly before the community was transferred. but was relieved of the burden a year later, November, 1922, and was succeeded by Father Cas-

B. V. M. Sodality Investiture

mur, who remained Prior until September 1924

If Abbot Michael had done nothing more than erect the College building under the enormous difficulties and the primitive conditions existing at the time, and put St. Peter's College on a solid basis, he would truly deserve the admiration and thanks of generations to come. But he accomplished a great deal more. The demands he had to face were almost innumerable. But in his quiet, com[illegible] he had a method of overcoming them and the present generation can evaluate his success and bless his foresight.

The hours he allotted himself for restful recreation were few and far between. On most Sundays, especially during the summer, he visited the parishes under his care, heard confessions, preached, blessed churches, or conferred the sacrament of Confirmation. The privilege to confirm outside of his territory, in the Diocese of Prince Albert, which Bishop Pascal had obtained for him from the Holy See for a period of five years, demanded his absence from the Abbey for days and weeks at a time. By July 1920 he had confirmed more than a thousand persons. During the last four days of June 1920, he confirmed at Leipzig, Handel and Carmelheim, in July he confirmed at Ermine, Kenrobert, Trumping Lake, Revenue, Scott, Macklin, Crosswerder, St. Peter, Holy Rosary Church near Salvador, and Denzil, all parishes in St. Joseph's Colony in the diocese of Prince Albert. Before this he had confirmed at Howel (now Prud'homme) and Vonda. The people of St. Joseph's Colony were particularly pleased to welcome a prelate who could preach in the German language. At that time the Abbot had already visited practically all the parishes in St. Peter's Colony. Besides this regular round of work he preached missions and retreats within the Colony and in the United States. To facilitate his local travels, the Abbey purchased its first auto, May 1920, a Dodge, from Kelly Brothers in Humboldt.

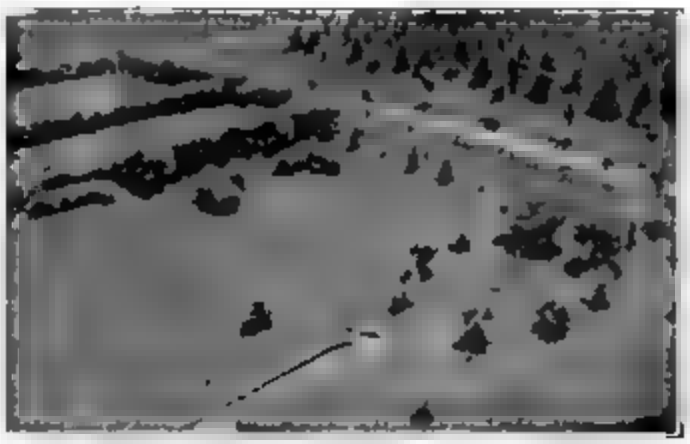
The Catholic population of St. Peter's Colony increased to approximately 9000 by June 1920, according to a census taken by the authorities of the diocese of Prince Albert. To take care of these growing numbers new churches had to be erected. The beautiful church at Willmont was blessed by Abbot Michael on June 24, 1920, the new church at Puger on August 1, and the new church at Cudworth on September 29.

St. Joseph's Colony contributed $580 in cash toward the erection of St. Peter's College, when F. I. Hauser, the director of the drive conducted by the Knights of Columbus, visited that district. The Volksverein contributed $1000 for the founding of a German Chair at the College. Abbot Michael was edified at the generosity of the Catholics of St. Peter's Colony which he witnessed in the short time he had been their spiritual head. They were now repaying what they must have considered a debt of gratitude to their pioneer priests who, seventeen years ago shared all the privations with the first settlers. Without their generosity the erection of St. Peter's College could not have been attempted. One must not overlook the fact that the settlers had to put their own homes in proper shape and erect places of worship and schools, construct roads, buy machinery and spend money for a variety of necessary purposes.

When the Sisters of St. Elizabeth erected a hospital at Humboldt and later the one at Cudworth, they were also assisted most generously. A helping hand was likewise extended to the Ursuline Nuns when they established their motherhouse within the Colony. When Rev. Peter Klotz, O.S.B.

of Salzburg, Austria, solicited alms for the poor of Austria in the name of Cardinal Piffl, he was able to take with him the sum of $3,333 41 collected within the Colony. Substantial sums of money were sent to the suffering people of Germany and Russia after the First World War, and Father Wm. Brueck's appeals for the support of St. Patrick's Orphanage at Prince Albert were always answered with respectable sums and supplies such as meat, flour, vegetables. Many a dollar was contributed for the missions in China, India, Africa and other missionary countries. God witnessed these varied acts of charity, and this is undoubtedly one of the reasons why He has blessed St. Peter's Colony and its inhabitants so plentifully in the past.

Here must be recorded an event which cast a pall of sadness over the whole diocese of Prince Albert — the death of Bishop Pascal. For many years he suffered intermittant severe abdominal pains, but considered them of little consequence. However, when the pains increased in 1917 he went to the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, for examination. The Doctors suspected cancer, and considering the age of the venerable prelate did not think it advisable to operate. Thereupon the bishop consulted a physician in Montreal who held out the hope that by proper care his life could be prolonged. For several weeks he was a patient in St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Humboldt, where he recovered sufficiently that he could bless the new parish school at Bruno on March 2, 1919. This was the last official act performed by the Bishop in St. Peter's Colony. Later in March he undertook a trip to his homeland, the diocese of Viviers, in Southern France, intending also to visit Rome, and then return to Canada. God had disposed otherwise. New attacks of his long-standing illness assailed him and on April 27, 1920, he received the sacraments of the dying. From his sick-bed he dictated a touching letter to St. Peter's Abbey, sending greetings to Abbot Michael, the sons of St. Benedict, the Venerable Ursulines and the Sisters of St. Elizabeth. The letter contained the following words: "When this letter arrives I will probably not be among the living anymore. I know, I must die. Then the good people of St. Peter's Colony will pray for me as they have done before for my recovery." The sad news of the untimely death of Abbot Bruno had been a severe shock to the good bishop and without doubt had hastened his death. He lingered for a little more than two months and died on July 14, 1920. On September 9, Abbot Michael celebrated a pontifical High Mass in the Cathedral of Prince Albert for the repose of his soul.



Aerial view of west farm

THE ABBEY NULLIUS

Bishop Pascal's love for the Benedictine Fathers and for St. Peter's Colony was truly sincere We must not forget to mention the great favor — more like a bequest or last testament — which he conferred upon them. A few months before his death he requested the Holy See that St. Peter's Abbey be elevated to the dignity of an Abbey Nullius, and that the territory in charge of the Benedictine Fathers be directly subject to the Holy See as is a real diocese. This request was graciously granted by the Holy Father under date of May 6, 1921 The document, called an Apostolic Constitution, says, "Bishop Albert Pascal having the prosperity of this colony at heart, and thinking it very expedient for the preservation of the colony to have it remain absolutely and forever under the direction and care of the Benedictine monks humbly and urgently prayed Us before he died that the Abbey of St. Peter at Muenster, with the parishes dependent on it, be erected as an Abbey 'Nullius Dioceseos' bearing the same name of St Peter. In consideration of these prayers and of the religious growth of the aforesaid priory, after taking counsel with our beloved sons the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, who are at the head of the Sacred Consistorial Congregation, and supplying, in as far as necessary the consent of those who are really or presumably concerned, with the plenitude of Apostolic Power, We dismember and sever the aforesaid territory known as St. Peter's Colony, from the diocese of Prince Albert and Saskatoon, to which it hitherto belonged, and erect and establish it as an Abbey Nullius, to be known as St. Peter's at Muenster, under the rule and jurisdiction of the existing abbot of that Abbey, making it immediately subject to the Apostolic See. St Peter's Church of that Abbey, We establish as the abbatial church of the newly created Abbey Nullius, which shall retain the same invocation and title; We likewise erect and establish therein the abbatial see and dignity after the manner of episcopal dignity for one abbot to be designated by the title of his Abbey, who shall rule over the church, the abbey, and the territory defined above."

Pope Benedict XV delegated His Excellency Peter di Maria, the Apostolic Delegate to Canada, to preside at the canonical erection of the Abbey Nullius, but granted also the power to subdelegate this authority to another person vested with ecclesiastical dignity. The Apostolic Delegate sub-

St. Peter's Church and third Monastery

A scene from "The Ruthenian"

dicated His Excellency Olivier Elzear Mathieu the Archbishop of Regina On September 8, 1921 Archbishop Mathieu executed the Apostolic Mandate in the church of St. Peter at Muenster and formally elevated St Peter's Abbey to the dignity of an Abbey Nullius. Present at the function besides Archbishop Mathieu and his secretary, Rev J Charest, were His Excellency Bishop Nicetas Budka, Ruthenian Bishop of Winnipeg, the newly appointed Bishop Joseph Prud'homme of Prince Albert and Saskatoon, and a large number of visiting clergy and the Fathers of the Abbey Father J Soos, of Stockholm, Sask and Father P Rapp, O M I assisted Archbishop Mathieu as chaplain Fathers P Nicolet and Wm. Brueck O M I were chaplains of Bishop Budka, Fathers Th. Schmid and A. Jan, O M I were chaplains of Bishop Prud homme, Fathers Dominic and Joseph Wickel were chaplains of Abbot Michael Father Charest read the letter of the Apostolic Delegate empowering Archbishop Mathieu to elevate St Peter's Abbey to an Abbey Nullius in Latin, and Father Lawrence, repeated it in German. This document was then presented by the Archbishop to Abbot Michael whereupon he lead the Abbot to his throne and presented him with the pastoral staff. The members of the Abbey then approached the throne and in token of their loyalty kissed the Abbot's ring

In his sermon the Archbishop drew a picture of heaven with its chours of angels and its countless saints. We here on earth should form a replica of this picture and have the same harmony and peace existing in heaven He mentioned that the pastor of souls should imitate his divine Master, and the souls under the pastor's care should pray for their shepherd. Bishop Budka spoke in German, congratulated the Abbot-Ordinary on the honor conferred upon him and St Peter's Colony and spoke words of praise for the late Bishop Pascal He remarked that Canada would not have a Bishop of the Ruthenian rite [illegible] his zeal for Catholics of this [illegible] ly advocated the appointment of a Bishop for them

After the memorable function, Prior Peter celebrated a Solemn High Mass, with Father Subprior Chrysostom and Father Rudolph as deacon and subdeacon, and Father Casimir as master of ceremonies All the ministers at the altar were pioneer priests. Another pioneer, the venerable Brother Aloysius, carried the cross at the procession Mr W. F Hargarten of Bruno, read a congratulatory message to the new Abbot-Ordinary pledging the fealty of the lay population within the new diocesan territory Abbot Michael responded, thanking all present, especially Archbishop Mathieu and Bishops Budka and Prud'homme Two of the Fathers of the community were unavoidably absent. Father Benedict was a patient in the hospital at Saskatoon, and Father Marcellus in the hospital at St Cloud, Minnesota

Abbot Michael substantially increased the membership of the Abbey. Fr Marcellus Mayer a cleric of St. John's Abbey, arrived on September 13 1919, and Father Fridolin Tewbreull came with Abbot Michael on October 10. Fathers Dominic and Lawrence who had been in the Colony for years, but were still members of St John's Abbey, now at the suggestion of Abbot Michael, and with the gracious consent of Abbot Peter, joined St. Peter's Abbey

Father Marcellus was ordained by Bishop Ovid Charlebois, O.M.I., on March 20, 1920, on the eve of the feast of St. Benedict and offered his first Solemn High Mass at Cold Springs, Minn., April

11, 1920, where Father Meinrad was then pastor When he returned to Muenster on May 5, he was accompanied by another cleric of St. John's Abbey Fr Aurelius Rader, who wished to join St. Peter's Abbey. Father Aurelius was ordained by Bishop Busch of St. Cloud, Minn., June 3, 1923, and had his first Solemn Mass on June 7, in his home parish, St. Leo, Minn. On the same day Father Aurelius was ordained, Bishop Busch also ordained the first young man God called to his service from St Peter's Colony, Father Theodore Doepker, O.S.B. He celebrated his first Solemn High Mass at Annaheim, June 17, 1923, and Abbot Michael delivered the festive sermon

On July 4, 1921, the following five young men arrived at Muenster Erwin Kuehne, Bernard Hable, Bernard Lohmer, Leonard Benning, and Joseph Bechtold. Excepting the latter, they had finished their classical course at St John's University, and came to join St Peter's Abbey Next day, they began their retreat together with another candidate, Casimir Montvydas, who had studied at St Bede's Abbey, Peru, Illinois. They entered the novitiate on July 11, the feast of the Solemnity of St Benedict, and were given the following names in religion: Erwin Kuehne, Frater Paul; Casimir Montvydas, Frater Bonaventure, Bernard Hable Frater John; Bernard Lohmer, Frater Francis; and Leonard Benning, Frater Leonard. Joseph Bechtold, after finishing his studies, was admitted to the novitiate later in the year, made his profession December 10, 1922, and later decided he had no vocation to the priesthood Several years ago he was accidentally killed while sawing off a tree in his yard. Frater Bonaventure was admitted to profession on July 26, 1922, but deciding God did not intend him for the priesthood left for a time and returned in 1928 as a candidate for the Brotherhood. For many years Brother Bonaventure has been in charge of the refectories and is night watchman. William Krumpelmann, was received into the Order in 1919, as Fr Cosmas, and was ordained December 23, 1923, by Bishop Prud'homme in St. Paul's Church at Saskatoon He had his first Solemn Mass in the Cathedral at Muenster, January 13, 1924. Father Wilfrid Hergott O.S.B a son of the Parish of Bruno, was ordained on July 27, 1924 He was the second priest from St. Peter's Colony. Father Wilfrid and Father Theodore made most of their studies at St. John's Abbey Fathers Paul, John, Francis and Leonard were ordained by Archbishop Dowling of St. Paul, Minn., at St Bernard's Church in that City on August 2, 1925 Abbot Michael preached the festive sermon at the first Solemn Highmass of each of them, celebrated in their respective home parishes. Father Stephan Mohorko came to Muenster from St Paul, Minn. on September 3, 1921, entered the novitiate on September 20, and was ordained May 29, 1926

The first priest to celebrate his silver jubilee in St. Peter's Colony was Father Ildephonse Mohtot O S B., who enjoyed this distinction on October 10, 1905, at Fulda Father Dominic observed his silver jubilee at Humboldt, August 8, 1922, and his golden jubilee also at Humboldt June 29, 1947 Father Matthias celebrated his at Marysburg, May 1924 Father Fridolin at Leofeld, June 11, 8, Father Rudolph at Lake Lenore, June 23 1929 Father Leo at Muenster, May 17, 1931 Father Bernard at Bruno, May 25, 1931, Father Casimir at Cudworth June 10, 1931 Father Joseph Sittenauer, a class-mate of Abbot Michael at the International Benedictine College in Rome and a member of St Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas who had joined St. Peter's Abbey in 1922, could celebrate his golden jubilee at the Abbey on June 29, 1939. Father Benedict observed his silver jubilee in St. Augustine's Church at Humboldt, July 4, 1926, and his golden jubilee on July 2, 195. in St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Father Prior Peter had the joy to celebrate his silver jubilee in his home parish in Germany on August 15, 1928. Father Chrysostom observed his on July 1, 1928 in a very simple function, only a solemn Highmass, and his example was followed by Father Matthew on March 2 1946. Father Marcellus celebrated his silver jubilee while pastor of Muenster and St. Gregor in the summer of 1945 Father Cosmas held his 25th anniversary in the Cathedral Church at Muenster, December 9, 1948, and Father Theodore had his in his parish at Watson on June 3 of the same year. Father Wilfrid had his anniversary in his home parish of Bruno in the summer of 1949 A singular privilege was in store for Father Lawrence who died June 30, 1950 at the age of 92 years. He celebrated his golden jubilee at Fulda and Wilmont October 6 and October 13, 1935, and his

diamond jubilee at the hospital at Cudworth in the late fall of 1945. Fathers Paul, John, Francis and Leonard celebrated their jubilees in 1950 and Father Stephen in the summer of 1951

On June 24 1921 Abbot Michael blessed the beautiful Church of St John at Willmont which had been erected under the direction of Father Lawrence On December 23 Father Abbot blessed the basement church of Our Lady of Victory the third Catholic Church in Saskatoon. On August 15 he blessed the beautiful brick church of the Assumption at Marysburg. This church replaced the frame structure which had been demolished by the storm of June 27, 1919 On August 21 he blessed the cornerstones for the church and parish school at Lake Lenore On October 16, 1921, he blessed the new church at Bruno and on October 23. the new basement church of the Sacred Heart at Watson. St Peter's College was blessed by the Abbot on November 27, at 8:00 o'clock in the morning in the presence of the community On December 14, 1921, he conferred ecclesiastical tonsure in the College chapel on Frs. Cosmas, Wilfrid, Aurelius and Theodore. and on December 17 and 18 the four minor orders This was the first time minor orders were conferred in the College chapel and Father Abbot gave an instructive talk on the ordination to the students

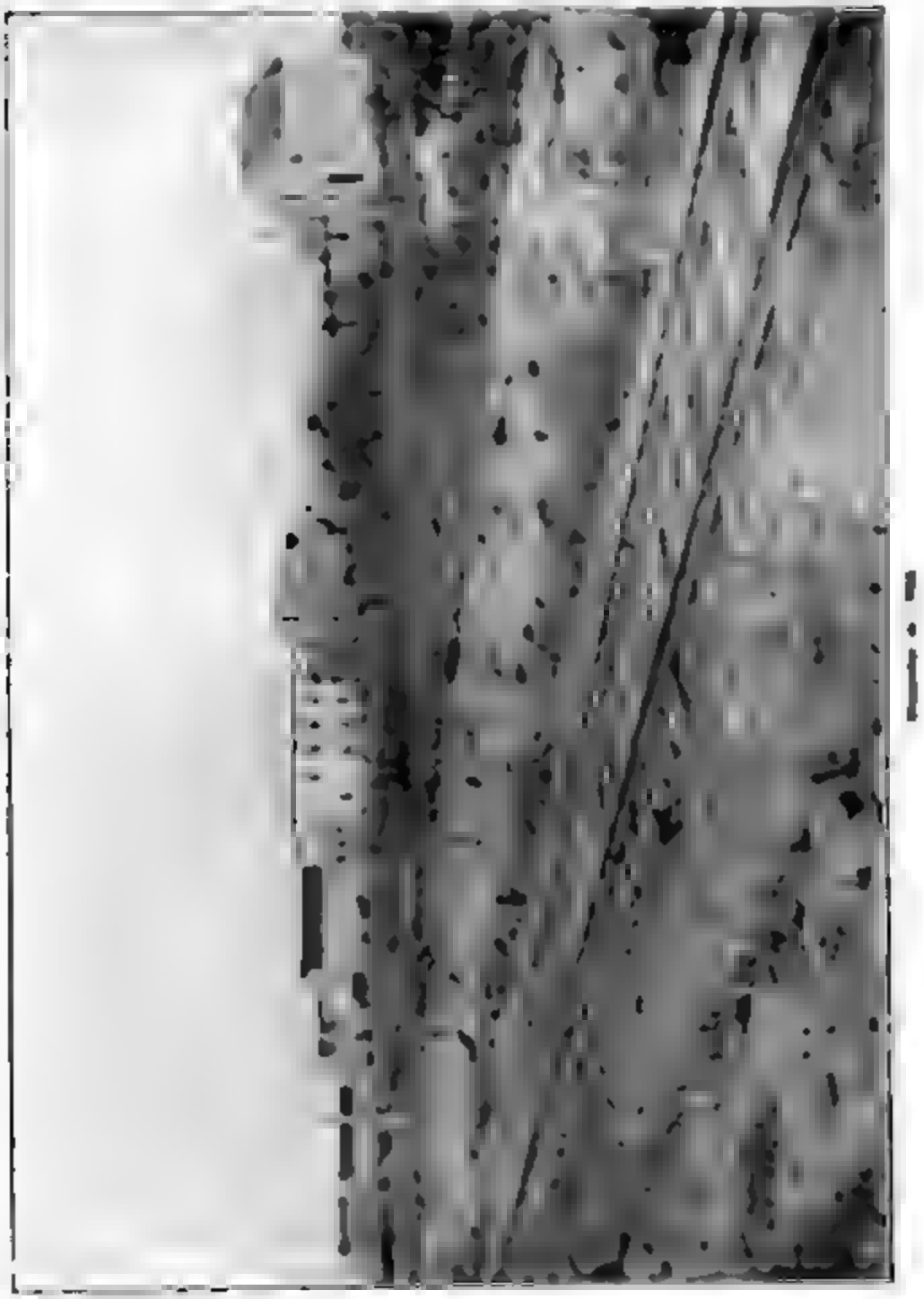
Since an Abbot of an Abbey Nullius' like any bishop of a diocese, is obliged to make an "ad limina" journey to Rome, the bishops of Europe every five years and other bishops every ten years Abbot Michael set out for Rome on April 6, 1922, to visit the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul and to give an account of the condition of St Peter's Abbey Nullius to the Holy Father He had his audience with the Holy Father on June 9. conversing with him in German. Pope Pius XI did not allow the Abbot to kiss his sandal as visitors are expected to do, but requested him to sit on a chair beside him. The Pope was very pleased with the report of the Abbot and commissioned him to impart the Apostolic Blessing in every parish and mission Toward the end of the audience the Holy Father opened a drawer of his desk and presented a handful of blessed medals. On July 15, Abbot Michael returned from Rome and the people of [illegible]olony extended a cordial welcome at the portico of the church Joseph Burton, Grand Knight of the Humboldt Council of the Knights of Columbus read an address and presented a check for $300 00, as a gift from the Knights. The Abbot spoke feelingly of his visit to the Holy Father, and imparted his pontifical blessing

Father Joseph Sittenauer, a member of St Benedict's Abbey Atchison, Kansas, a close friend of Abbot Michael, arrived with the Abbot He had decided to join St Peter's Abbey, and was a valuable aid to the community as Subprior teacher of theology, and editor of St. Peter's Bote. During the absence of Abbot Michael in Rome, Prior Adolin invested the following young men as novices on July 11, John Seifermann, a nephew of Father Meinrad. as Frater Sylvester, Henry Boeckman as Frater Luke, Aloysius Herriges as Frater Aloysius, and George Lendway, a candidate for the lay-brotherhood, as Brother Edmund

Fathers Sylvester, Luke, Aloysius and Xavier were ordained by Bishop Jos. Prud'homme, of Prince Albert on July 29, 1928, the last day of the silver jubilee celebration of St Peter's Colony Father Xavier Benning, whose baptismal name was Elmer, was clothed with the Benedictine habit on July 11, 1923, and made his profession a year later He is a brother of Fathers Leonard and Edward and was appointed Subprior shortly after the death of Father Joseph Sittenauer in 1946. Since the fall of 1935 he has been Rector of St Peter's College Father Sylvester died in the Hospital at Humboldt on November 3, 1939, and Brother Edmund, died in St. Paul's Hospital at Saskatoon, April 17, 193[illegible]

Father Ignatius Groll, O.S.B., a member of St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, gave considerable aid to St Peter's College about this time He was an excellent musician, especially proficient at the piano. He taught music and also organized theatrical groups at the College and the various parishes. A number of his musical compositions, among them "Abbey Chimes" have been played over the radio in the United States. He arrived at Worcester during 1921 and left Canada for Colorado in July of 1924. Later he returned to his home Abbey and died of heart failure March 30, 1934

On December 8, 1922. Abbot Michael blessed the new church at Lake Lenore. On July 15, 1923. he blessed the cornerstone of the new church of St. Gregor, on October 21 of the [illegible]



year, the completed church, and on December the 1800 lb bell. The new separate school at Watson was blessed by the Abbot on January 1, 1924 and the basement church at Annaheim, replacing the frame building destroyed by fire, on September 14. On October 11, 1924 he blessed the new house [illegible] me Nuns teaching in the Watson Separate School and also said the first Mass in their chapel. On November 20 he blessed the parish house at Fulda and on December 14 the temporary hospital at Cudworth.

On May 10, 1925 a new mission was opened by Father Chrysostom in the young town of Naicam, and steps were taken to build a church. For the time being, Mass was celebrated in the town hall once a month. In January 1926 six acres of land were purchased at the north west corner of the town and it was estimated that about $20,000 would be required to build a church and a parish house. A building committee was appointed and by September 1926 the church was practically finished.

On December 6, 1922, after a High Mass in honor of the Holy Ghost, celebrated by Father Peter in the Cathedral Church, delegates from all parts of St. Peter's Colony gathered in the hall at Muenster and held the first convention of the St. Peter's Colony School Trustees' Association which was heartily endorsed by Abbot Michael. The Abbot addressed the assembly on the rights of Catholic parents; and the duty of giving their children a thorough Christian education. The convention adopted a constitution, did much to clarify the stand of Catholics in the school question and led to the organization of the Catholic School Trustees' Association of the province.

In May 1925 Abbot Michael preached a three day retreat to the young ladies, the Children of Mary, in St. Augustine's Church, Humboldt, and in October he preached at the Forty Hours devotion at Freeport, Minnesota. On his return he attended the Bishop's Conference in Regina, at which Archbishop Mathieu of Regina, Archbishop Beliveau of St. Boniface, Archbishop Sinnot of Winnipeg, Bishop Prud'homme of Prince Albert and Bishop Charlebois of Le Pas were present. On New Year's Day, 1926, Abbot Michael celebrated a Pontifical High Mass in St. Augustine's Church, Humboldt, and in his sermon stressed again the importance of a thorough religious education for all Catholic children. On January 3, 6 and 10, 1926, he conferred tonsure and the four minor orders on Frs. Sylvester, Luke, Aloysius and Xavier, and in February he preached the annual students' retreat at the College. On March 4, 1926, he and Father Matthew, went to Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to preach the Forty Hours devotion. On the feast of Pentecost, May 23, Abbot Michael preached at St. Benedict and conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on 90 persons of St. Benedict's Parish and St. Leo's Mission. This was the last public official function of Abbot Michael as Ordinary of the Abbey Nullius.

On May 29 the Abbot Visitators of the American Cassinese Congregation of Benedictines, Rt. Rev. Ernest Helmstetter Abbot of St. Mary's Abbey, Newark, N. J., and Rt. Rev. Charles Mohr Abbot of St. Leo's Abbey St. Leo, Florida, arrived and conducted the triennial visitation of St. Peter's Abbey. They left on June 3, with Abbot Michael who preached at the first solemn High Mass of Father Stephen Mohorko, in the church of St. Francis de Sales in St. Paul, Minnesota. A little later he conducted the annual retreat of the diocesan clergy of St. Cloud, and of the Benedictine Fathers of St. John's Abbey. When he arrived in Chicago to attend the Eucharistic Congress from June 20 to 24, he became quite ill and was confined to a hospital. Fathers Dominic, Leo, Bernard and Marcellus who also attended the Eucharistic Congress visited him there and found him rather disheartened.

For many years Abbot Michael had found it necessary to consult physicians. After rest and care in Chicago he was sufficiently recovered to accompany the Rt. Rev. Fidelis von Stotzingen, the Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Order, then in North America to visit all the Benedictine houses, to Muenster where they arrived on August 7, 1926. A letter from the Holy See awaited Abbot Michael. It contained the astonishing news: "Your resignation as Abbot Ordinary of the Abbey Nullius of St. Peter at Muenster, Sask., Canada, has been accepted." One can imagine the surprise of the community and the territory at this message, for he had not informed them of his resignation. How-

ever, "Roma locuta, causa finita," "Rome has spoken, the matter is settled." These words spoken by St Augustine of Hippo were applicable here Abbot Michael had resigned and the Holy Father had accepted the resignation. Like a comforting angel sent by Divine Providence was the presence of the kind hearted Abbot Primate

The stupendous work done by Abbot Michael and his extraordinary success in guiding St Peter's Colony from 1919 to 1926 speak louder than words At his arrival in the fall of 1919 St Peter's Abbey had only 15 members — ten priests, three clerics and two lay brothers. In August of 1926 this number had increased to 44 — 23 priests, 14 clerics, and 7 lay brothers. Abbot Mihael left Muenster with the Abbot Primate on August 12 [illegible] and went to St Martin's Abbey, Lacey Washington, where he recuperated somewhat and assisted teaching Philosophy In 1928 he was chaplain of St Joseph's Orphanage in St. Paul, Minn and in 1931 he took over the chaplaincy of the Benedictine Sisters' Convent at Crookston Minn which office he held until a few months before his death. At Crookston he had the joy to observe his golden sacerdotal jubilee, June 29, 1944 which celebration Abbot Severin his successor attended He died peacefully on February 15, 1948. His body was taken to St. Peter's Abbey and after a [illegible] Pontifical Requiem celebrated by Abbot Severin, interred beside the remains of Abbot Bruno in the Abbey cemetery, February 21, 1948

The chapter members of St. Peter's Abbey assembled on August 13, 1926, and, as in a diocese where the bishop has died or resigned, elected a Vicar Capitular according to the prescriptions of Canon Law, to administer the territory of the Abbey Nullius until a new Abbot Ordinary was elected and confirmed by the Holy See The members of the community elected Father Peter He had already carried the responsibilities of administrating the affairs of the Abbey after the death of Abbot Bruno from June 12, 1919, until the arrival of Abbot Michael in October of the same year According to the Statutes of the Benedictine Order Father Prior is to take over the management of the Abbey in case of the death or the resignation of the Abbot until a new Abbot is elected. Now in addition to the affairs of the Abbey, the task of administering the territory of the Abbey Nullius was placed on his shoulders.

He received the solemn vows of Frs. Sylvester Luke, Aloysius and the perpetual vows of Brother Edmund, on July 12, and blessed the new church of the Immaculate Conception, south of Carmel, on July 25, 1926

Bishop Pascal on Lake Lenore, setting out for St. Bruno

ACHIEVEMENTS OF ST PETER'S COLLEGE

The preceding pages have shown how St Peter's College came into existence, how Abbot Michael strove to give St. Peter's Colony a first class institution of higher learning, and how well he succeeded. It would be wrong to conclude that nothing was done to educate young men and to prepare them for the priesthood before Abbot Michael's time. Though conditions in the early days were most primitive the Benedictine Fathers, in spite of many occupations and difficulties, did not lose sight of the need for education. Father John Balfrey taught the children of the Muenster district in that part of the log church which could be partitioned off, and was not used for divine service on week days. Skilful as a carpenter, he had made the benches for the children. Father Chrysostom taught for a time at Bruno and Father Rudolph at Humboldt. Father Peter well remembers the class room in the annex on the east side of monastery No. 2, where he taught moral theology to Fathers Rudolph, Leo, Casimir and Bernard at the same time that Father John was hammering away on the north side of the same building. These young men were still preparing for the priesthood. Whenever supplies on hand declined they put aside their books, harnessed horses to heavy wagons and set out on the long trip to Rosthern to bring food, lumber and other necessities, making a trip which usually lasted about a week.

Father Matthias taught Latin to Brother Adolph Steiger who felt called to the priesthood. In 1904 after the expiration of his triennial vows Brother Adolph left the Colony because he thought it impossible to complete his studies within a reasonable time under primitive conditions, and since he was already 23 years old he wanted to reach his goal as soon as possible. (He continued his studies at the Benedictine College and Seminary of St Meinrad, Indiana, a generous lady of Westphalia Iowa, financing his studies, and he was ordained priest June 4, 1914, for the diocese of Des Moines Iowa.) Steiger's love for St. Peter's Colony prompted him to visit Canada several times and in one of his sermons delivered in Muenster he said: "From 1903 to 1904 I served as cook for St Peter's Monastery, and now as priest I prepare spiritual banquets." He was pastor of St. Joseph Church, Earling, Iowa, for many years. Here he witnessed the expulsion of evil spirits from a young lady by the exorcisms of the saintly Capuchin Father Theophilus Riesinger, of Appelton, Wisconsin. He died on November 8, 1938.

Other young men under instruction in the pioneer days were Hugo Schwaiger, Placidus Wolf, Aloysius Nadolski, Robert Wickel, Philip Wartman, Frederick Sattelberger and Matthew Michel. Hugo Schwaiger, whose name after his profession was Frater Maurus, left after the expiration of his triennial vows, married, and has a family of 11 children, five boys and six girls, one of whom is a Franciscan nun. Frater Sattelberger also left after his vows expired and married. He died in 1951. Frater Placid often accompanied the Fathers to their distant missions in the pioneer days and assisted them with his sonorous voice at High Masses. He became mentally ill and has been in a hospital for over 40 years. Aloysius Nadolski left the community in 1906, married, and became the father of a large family. For many years he edited a weekly Catholic paper the "North-Dakota Herold." He died in 1951. Fr Philip Wartman transferred to St. Leo's Abbey, Florida, and was ordained in 1924. Father Matthew Michael completed his theological studies at Muenster, was ordained by Bishop Charlebois at Le Pas, Manitoba, on March 27, 1921. Fathers Theodore, Aurelius, Cosmas, Wilfrid, Paul, John, Francis, Leonard, Stephen, Sylvester, Luke, Aloysius, Xavier, Gregory, Augustine and Alphonse completed their classical course in the new St Peter's College prior to their philosophy and theology, and may therefore be considered the first fruits of St Peter's College.

The first student to enter St. Peter's College was John Nelson of Edmonton, Alta. He and Robert O'Hara of St Paul, Minn., served as the first prefects of discipline in 1921, and as a symbol of authority they wore a cassock over their regular [illegible]ning. John Nelson arrived on October 29, 1921 before the new college building was completed.

and since there was no room in the old monastery he made his abode as best he could in the unfinished building. Rev. Lewis Gwynn, a deacon, was the first Prefect of Studies, an office which later was merged with that of Rector. He was a seminarian when he arrived at Muenster and was ordained as a secular priest at Tramping Lake, Sask. by Bishop Prud'homme, July 27, 1924. He left Muenster December 3, 1924, to act as an immigration agent at Winnipeg. He was stricken with a severe illness and died in eastern Canada about ten years ago. Father Wilfrid was Rector from September 1924 until June 30, 1931.

The first years of the College were very difficult and Abbot Michael and his staff had to face many problems. One of these was to meet the requirements of a Junior College affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan. These were met eventually, and the course in Second Year Arts was opened in 1926. Fathers Cosmas, Paul, Wilfrid and Jerome attended universities, the former two the University of Minnesota, and the latter two the the University of Saskatchewan, qualifying to teach university subjects. For a number of years Father Matthew attended the Catholic University in Washington, D. C., returning in 1931 with a Ph.D. degree in Education, and thereupon was appointed rector of the College. After four years he was succeeded by Father Xavier, who has retained the position. After the death of Father Subprior Joseph Sittenauer, September 1946, Father Xavier also became Subprior of the Abbey. In August 1942 Father Gregory acquired a degree in French at the University of Laval, Quebec, and, Father Philip spent a few years at the International Benedictine College, in Rome. Father Leo Hinz, O.S.B., ordained June 3, 1950, was sent that year to the University of Ottawa to study Canon Law.

Since reason tells us that religion is of the highest importance, St. Peter's College from the beginning taught religion, beside the other courses on the curriculum. The students attend daily Mass, and many are daily communicants. Since 1941, except for the two years he spent in the Sanatorium, Father Augustine has been their chaplain. Before 1941 this position was held by Father Wilfrid. Father Abbot Severin usually conducts a series of talks on vocations and other spiritual topics during the course of the year. The students likewise derive much benefit from their annual retreat.

A sound mind needs a sound body. [illegible] sports are not neglected and football, handball, volley ball, basket ball, hockey, baseball, softball, tennis, and other games are played in their season. St. Michael's Literary and Dramatic Society was founded the first year the College was in existence, and has been active ever since. Its members arranged for a debate on May 29, 1922 to discuss the pros and cons of the tariff question. Albert Nenzel (now Father Augustine) and Henry Wilbek, Marcelin, Sask., upheld the affirmative, while Aloysius Herriges (now Father Aloysius) and Ernest Miller, Cudworth, spoke for the negative. The judges were Hy. M. Therres, M.L.A., J. W. MacDonald, Barrister at Bruno, Adrien Douron, Barrister at Vonda, and Jos. Burton of Humboldt. So well did both sides argue the question that the price, $10 in gold donated by the Volksverein, was equally divided between the contestants.

On May 21, 1922, the students staged their first of many plays. Students partaking were Bernard Fne, Aloysius Herriges, Alphonse Weber, Lambert Lemmerich, Benedict Hargarten, Henry Willick, John Seifermann and John Mundwei[illegible].

During the early years much assistance was given by Father Ignatius who taught Music, German, and Religion, and by Father Daniel O'Sullivan, English, Church History and Exegesis. Father O'Sullivan joined the Archdiocese of Winnipeg in 1925. It can be easily understood that at this time it was necessary for the Fratres Clerici, studying for the priesthood, to assist in teaching some subjects.

During the relatively short period of its existence the College has helped to prepare a long list of young men for their later life, some as exemplary laymen, others as as equally exemplary workers among the diocesan and regular clergy. Today the school founded by Abbot Michael receives many more application than it can accomodate, about 100 being enrolled annually.

A notable distinction was won by a student of St. Peter's College on May 9, 1927, when Julius Poszar of Young, Sask., aged 16, a student in Grade XI, was declared the winner of the Saskatchewan championship in the Dominion and Inter

national Oratorial contest held at Regina Students of 216 secondary schools took part He was awarded the gold medal, two hundred dollars, and a trip to Ottawa, expenses paid, for the Dominion finals. There he won a high standing among the national contestants

St Peter's College has many friends. which is attested by the crowds which come to its dramatic performances, elocution contests and other performances. At present the dramatics are under the direction of Father Augustine Usually when a performance is staged the hall, erected in 1942. is not capable of holding all the visitors, although the performances are staged several times. The loyalty of the alumni is wonderful. Old students drop in frequently to exchange greetings with the faculty and at Christmas time hundreds of letters and cards pour into the Rector's Office expressing thanks, good will and loyalty The periodic Alumni gatherings are gala events as old students renew old acquaintances and relive their college days

The following Benedictine priests made either all or part of their studies at St. Peter's College Fathers Aurelius Rader. Theodore Doepker. Cosmas Krumpelmann, Wilfrid Hergott. Paul Kuehne, John Habie, Francis Lohmer, Leonard Benning, Stephen Mohorko, Luke Boeckmann, Alovsius Herreges, Sylvester Seifermann, Xavier Benning, Gregory Gasser Augustine Nenzel, Alphonse Ludwig Norbert Schwinghammer Edward Benning, William Gehlen. George Brodner, Martin Brodner, Philip Loehr, Jerome Weber, Alfred Engele, Florian Renneberg Roman Schneider, Albert Ruetz, Leo Hinz, and Leander Dosch. At the time of writing two deacons Fr James Gray and Fr Vincent Morrison, are completing their theological studies at St. John's Abbey Minnesota. Father John Zeman of Kenaston, Sask., also studied at St Peter's College and is now a member of St Andrew's Abbey, Cleveland. Ohio. Four clerics are studying philosophy at St John's Abbey, Fratres Werner Renneberg, Daniel Gerwing, Joseph Ackerman and Anselm Gerwing Another member of the Abbey who had completed his classical course at the College. Frater Joseph Kelly, was sent to St. John's for his novitiate, but died there by drowning, August 11, 1948 This was a severe blow to his Family and to the Abbey. His remains were brought back to Muenster and interred in the Abbey cemetary

Besides these Benedictines, the College since 1921 was instrumental in training at least 43 other young men for the priesthood, among them ten for the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, six for the Redemptorists, 23 for the secular clergy, two for the LaSalette Fathers, one for the Society of Jesus. A goodly number of others are at present in various novitiates and seminaries preparing themselves for the priesthood.

The Benedictine Brothers

Speaking of the religious state, St Bernard says, "In it a man lives more purely falls less frequently, rises more speedily, acts more circumspectly, receives richer measures of graces, dies more hopefully, is purified more quickly and rewarded more abundantly" If the Catholic men would reflect upon these words more seriously the Lord would surely multiply the vocations to the religious state

When the Benedictines moved into Saskatchewan there were only two Brothers to accompany them, Brother Adolph Steiger, who a year later left Canada as has been chronicled, and Bro. Bruno Fuchs, a novice who left during the course of his novitiate Aloysius Gleissner, a candidate for the Brotherhood accompanied the group in May 1903 He had been a Benedictine lay Brother at St. Vincent Archabbey in Pennsylvania, but later had left the Order. He was re-invested by Prior Alfred on May 24, 1904, received into the novitiate and admitted to profession a year later on the same date At that time he was 48 years old

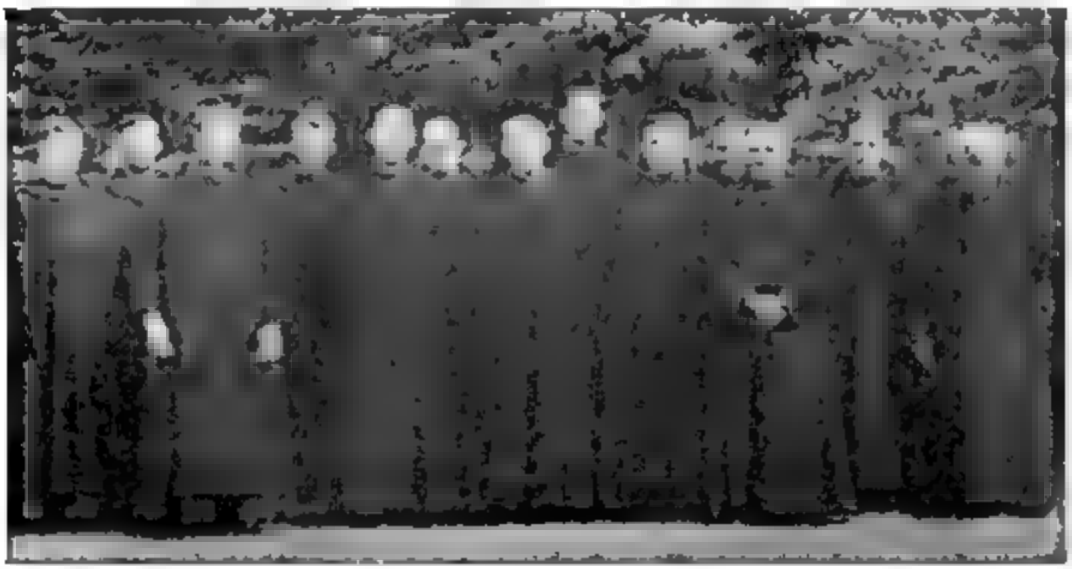
Brothers are necessary for the well-being of a religious community; many a good work would be left undone if it were not for the help given by them. They share in all spiritual favors granted to a religious community They serve at Holy Mass or assist at it, act as sacristans, make their daily meditation, spiritual reading, examination of conscience, pray the rosary at the same time that priests of the community recite the Divine Office see to the cleanliness of the house, work in the printing establishment, in the powerhouse, kitchen, laundry, bakery, carpenter shop, in the garden orchard, apiary, on the farm, or wherever duty calls them

Brother Adolph was a skilful cook and provided many tasty meals for the small community though often the most necessary ingredients were lacking. Once, however, he tried to bake some buns (biscuits they were called in those days) near the log cabin monastery, in a pan over an open fire They resembled balls of lead more than anything edible, and the good brother pitched them in to the Wolverine Creek. On another occasion he discovered that a number of loaves of bread disappeared during the night from the cellar, a hole beneath monastery No. 2 He investigated carefully and found that the thieves were two skunks. He summoned Father Rodolph, the nimrod of the small community, who quickly exterminated the marauders, with results easily imagined No imagination was needed by the monks living in the house at the time! Another incident worth recording occurred during the summer of 1903 when an Indian walked into the tiny kitchen without knocking. Brother Adolf was frightened but offered the unbidden guest a cup of milk This drink must have been delicious, since the cow, the only one owned by the monks at that time, had recently consummed the holy water in the stand at the entrance of the tent chapel and the flowers from the altar Later, the Indian paid another visit, squatted on the kitchen floor, and placed a large, unsightly knife at his feet Again the Brother offered what hospitality was available, invoking his guardian angel for protection. Nothing untoward happened and later the Brother was told by one who knew Indian ways that the visitor merely wished to show that he was friendly! The holy water font mentioned above was a hollowed limestone resembling a huge and heavy wash basin which Father Peter found on the bank of the Wolverine Creek and carried to the chapel tent. Father John made a stand for it out of poplar poles. For many years the stone holy water font has been in the museum.

Supplying the community with a good cook in the Canadian wilderness was a perplexing problem for many years though all was well enough as long as Brother Adolph was in the monastery Later Brother Aloysius took over his position. He had some knowledge of cooking, but was by no means proficient, and all the members had ravening appetites. For a short time two Sisters of Providence from Howell (now Prud'homme) were in charge of the kitchen, and later Mrs. Gerard Kuemper She was followed by Mr. and Mrs Plemel of St Gregor, then Mr and Mrs. P Klotz of

St Gregor and others. Abbot Peter of St. John's Abbey in April 1909 sent Brother William Baldus O.S.B. an excellent cook. However, on account of the severe climate, he returned to his own Abbey after a month's stay. The difficult problem was finally given a satisfactory solution when the Sisters of St. Elizabeth came to Canada and took over the management of the kitchen and the laund

When the first contingent of Benedictines moved to Saskatchewan in May, 1903, three members of the Cluny Priory stayed in Illinois. They [illegible]as. Frater Leo and Brother R[illegible] Canonge. Father Matthias stayed until March [illegible] while Frater Leo and Brother Rhaban left [illegible]d at the Priory in October [illegible] Brother Rhaban was a Creole, born on January 5, 1849 at New Orleans, Louisiana, of a French father and a negro mother who had formerly been a slave. He was an expert cook and had served as such in a wealthy establishment at New Orleans. He entered the Order of St. Benedict at St. Vincent Archabbey, Pennsylvania, and was admitted to vows on February 2, 1879. He had received the name of Arthur at his baptism, now he was given the name of the great Benedictine saint, Rhabanus Maurus. He served for a time at St. Vincent, at Savannah Georgia, and at St. Bernard's Abbey, Cullman, Alabama. About 1900 he was confined to the hospital at Memphis, Tennessee, where he underwent an operation for a severe hernia. The operation, however, was not successful. From Memphis he went to Cluny, Illinois, to aid Prior Oswald Moosmueller's struggling establishment, again being employed as cook. At Muenster Prior Alfred appointed him porter of the monastery and janitor. His greatest joy was to attend the



Left to right: Brothers Michael, Bruno, Joseph, Bernard, Oswald, Conrad, Anton, John, Gregory, Aloysius, Justus, Dominic and Alcuin. Missing from Photo Br. Benevenutus.

room of Bishop Pascal whenever that prelate visited the monastery, for then he was able to make use of his knowledge of French. He loved to speak French, though his knowledge of English was perfect, and he could also make himself understood in German. Everybody loved the powerfully built Brother Rhabanus, with his long white beard and dark complexion. The children especially were drawn to him, and often rang the bell just to see his kindly face. He was regular as a clock faithfully ringing the bell every morning to rouse the monks and in general was an exemplary religious. The last five years of his life he was a patient at St. Elizabeth's Hospital Humboldt, where he edified all by his patience and resignation amid great suffering. He died January 25, 1920, aged 71. Father Prior celebrated the solemn Requiem High Mass with Fathers Leo and Joseph Wickel as deacon and subdeacon. He was buried in St. Peter's Parish cemetery but his remains were later re-interred in the Abbey cemetery. Brother Rhaban was the first Brother of St. Peter's Abbey to be called to his reward.

The next member of the brotherhood to be called was Brother Edmund Lendway, who died on April 17, 1937. Brother Edmund was born in Hungary, was invested by Prior Fridolin July 11, 1922, and made his profession on July 12, 1923. He was very useful on the Abbey farm, taking care of the chickens, milking cows, butchering, later assisting in the printing office and binding books. He contracted tuberculosis and spent two years in the Saskatoon sanatorium, shortly before his death he underwent an operation in St. Paul's Hospital. He died April 17, 1937, in the 42nd year of his life.

The third Brother whom St. Peter's lost in death was Brother Aloysius. Some incidents of his life have already been recorded. He was born in Bavaria and joined the small community of Canadian Benedictines on the invitation of Frater Peter. Repeatedly he acted as cook, porter, gardner and as caretaker of the cells of the Fathers, until old age and infirmity confined him to his room and bed. He died at the ripe old age of 82 on November 3, 1939.

At present there are 24 Brothers at St. Peter's Abbey. They are Brothers Justus Trettel, professed January 1, 1909, Anthony Wisniewski, January 21, 1923, Joseph Perry, July 16, 1925, Alexius Krippner, November 14, 1928, Bonaventure Montvy[illegible], March 12, 1929, Dominic Distel, July 8, 1930, Gregory Brodner, June 30, 1932, John Brodner, [illegible] Conrad Abt, August [illegible] 1940 Oswald King, January 29, 1941 Bruno Koneesni, June 2, 1941, Bernard Lange, March 21, 1949, Michael Deck, June 16, 1951, and Aloysius Lange June 16, 1951.

Brother Justus formerly belonged to St. John's Abbey, but joined St. Peter's Abbey April 21, 1924. He has a wide range of talents and is experienced as carpenter, blacksmith, mechanic, builder, farmer, etc. He is the senior of the Brothers, not in age, but in the years he has been a religious. Brothers Anthony and Bonaventure are night watchmen, the latter being also in charge of the community and student refectories, while the former is a janitor on the students' floors. Brother Joseph performs janitor work on the Abbey floors. Brother Alexius, though 78 years of age, is still a highly successful gardener. Brothers Dominic, Conrad and Michael are engaged in the Print Shop. Brother Gregory is the engineer, supplying light and heat to the building. Brother John assists him in this, and in his spare time cares for the nursery and orchard and the grounds surrounding the building. Brother Bruno is in charge of the herd of Yorkshire hogs. Brother Oswald works in the carpenter shop and is in charge of the apiary. Brother Bernard is quite an expert with the farm tractors and his example is followed in summer by his brother Aloysius, who is kept busy as janitor on the student's floors during the school year.

Abbot Severin

Though St. Peter's Abbey and the territory of the Abbey Nullius were in grief when the news of Abbot Michael's resignation reached them, events proceeded normally during the time the abbatial throne was vacant. Father Cyril of Fort Wayne, Indiana, preached Missions at Leofeld, Cudworth, Carmel, St. Scholastica, Annaheim, Engelfeld and St. Gregor, beginning on July 11, 1926, and ending with a retreat for the Sisters at Bruno and the Sisters at Humboldt. August 21 Father Cyril was a member of the Congregation of the Precious Blood. Prior Peter, substituting for the Abbot, received the vows of Fratres Gregory Casser, Augustine Nenzel, Alphonse Ludwig, Michael Zeman, Severin Casserra and Anthony Benning. (The last two named left after the expiration of their vows, while Fr. Michael Zeman transferred to St. Andrew's Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio, there his religious name was changed to Fr. John.) The ceremony took place in St. Peter's Church Muenster. Prior Peter represented the Abbey at the Katholikentag in Regina, July 7 and 8, where Dr. Ignaz Seipel, the Chancellor of the Government of Austria addressed the Volksverein on several occasions and attended all its meetings. On July 13 and 14 Prior Peter was present at the District Katholikentag at Engelfeld, and on July 27 at the District Katholikentag at Salvador in the St. Joseph's Colony. On August 17, 1926, he received the triennial vows of Sisters Agnes, Dolores, Frances, Aquina, Martha and Cecilia in the convent chapel of the Ursulines at Bruno and the perpetual vows of Sister Catherine on August 28. On November 21, 1926, he presided at the investment of two young ladies entering the Order of St. Elizabeth, and received the triennial vows of Sisters Dominica and Floriana.

Meanwhile, during the summer of 1926 work was proceeding on the new St. Michael's Hospital at Cudworth, under the direction of Fr. Casimir so that it could be officially opened on December 17. At Naicam a new church dedicated to St. George, was built under the direction of Fr. Chrysostom.

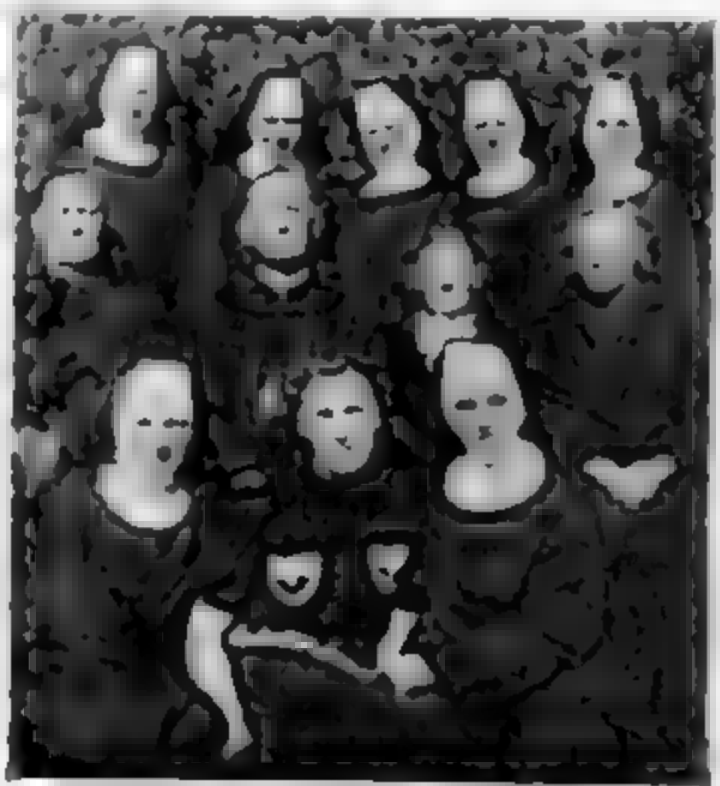
September 8, 1926 was a very important day for St. Peter's Abbey Nullius. The feast day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, it was the day set for the election of a new Abbot. Prayers to the Holy Ghost were offered by the community weeks before, and on the eve of the election a preliminary discussion took place under the guidance of the Rt. Rev. Ernest Helmstetter, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Mary's Abbey, Newark, N.J., then President of the American Cassinese Congregation of Benedictines. All capitulars of the Abbey were present excepting Father Bernard who was in Europe, and Father Cosmas who was a patient at Rochester, Minn. After Mass in honor of the Holy Ghost, the chapter members assembled in one of the larger rooms of the Abbey and under the supervision of Abbot Ernest elected Father Severin Gerthen, O.S.B., a member of St. John's Abbey. A telegram was sent to St. John's Abbey, and the Abbot-elect after prayer and after receiving the consent of his Abbot wired his acceptance. Following this all the capitulars assembled in the chapel and chanted the Te Deum. Abbot Ernest completed the necessary documents to be forwarded to the Holy See for the approbation and confirmation of the election by the Sacred Consistorial Congregation. This Congregation ratified the election under date of October 5, 1926, and the Acta Apostolicae Sedis, the official Vatican publication, published it under date of November 3, of the same year, though the papal documents arrived at Muenster only on February 1, 1927. They were immediately forwarded to the new Abbot, and on February 17, 1927, he came to his future home. In spite of the inclemency of the weather he was given a warm welcome at the stations along the way, Watson, Engelfeld, St. Gregor and finally at Muenster, where a throng of school children and members of the parish and diocese had gathered. Abbot Severin was impressed with this cordial reception, and in an announcement in the St. Peter's Bote and the St. Peter's Messenger thanked the people and compared his

Rt. Rev. Leander Gardiner, O. S. B., second Abbot-Ordinary

arrival with a homecoming. At the end of his message he quoted the words of the first letter of St John, 3, 18, "My little children, let us not love in word, nor in tongue, but in deed and in truth." He selected May 4 for his solemn blessing. The new Abbot was not a stranger to the Fathers at St Peter's Abbey, since practically all knew him from their stay at St John's, where many had him as professor, and he had visited St Peter's Colony in 1906 and 1916.

Abbot Severin was born at Richmond Minnesota, July 26, 1881, the son of Lucas and Margareth Gertken. Mr. Gertken was born in Germany and taught school there until he emigrated to the United States and took up his profession again in Minnesota. He taught for a time at St Martin and later at Richmond, rounding out a period of about 50 years of teaching. He raised a family of thirteen children of whom seven daughters became Benedictine Sisters at St Benedict's Convent, St Joseph, Minn., and four sons who became Benedictine monks at St John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., namely Fathers Innocent, Severin, Norbert and Alban. Father Alban died as a deacon on November 14, 1923, about half a year before completing his studies for the priesthood. At Baptism Abbot Severin received the name James. He received his early education in the school his father taught, and later attended St. John's University, Collegeville, and entered the novitiate in 1901 receiving the name Severin. He was admitted to profession on July 11, 1902, and showed such proficiency in his philosophical studies that the degree Ph. B. (Bachelor of Philosophy) was conferred on him two years later. He was ordained June 7, 1907. Following this he taught almost continuously at St. John's University in the Department of Science, except for the time he spent at the University of Chicago to obtain his Master of Science degree in Chemistry. For over ten years he was Rector of St. John's Seminary, and also for a time director of St. John's College. It must have entailed no small sacrifice for Abbot Alcuin to relinquish such a valuable man.

On March 7, 1927, the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, Abbot Severin gave an interesting lecture



Abbot Severin with his surviving brothers and sisters, 1947
Another brother, Father Alban, died as a deacon, 1923.

to the students of the College on astronomy and continued the same topic March 21, St. Benedict's day. That morning he had a solemn High Mass and sermon in the students' chapel. During the last three days of Holy Week he conducted the solemn services at St. Peter's Church. On Easter Sunday Prior Peter celebrated the solemn High Mass there and read the documents from Rome confirming the election of the Abbot Ordinary. Abbot Severin was present at the service and preached in German. It was his first sermon in St. Peter's Church.

Solemn and beautiful ceremonies marked the blessing of the new Abbot, May 4, 1927, the feast of the Solemnity of St. Joseph. The function was conducted by Bishop Joseph Prud'homme of Prince Albert and Saskatoon, assisted by two Benedictine Abbots, Rt. Rev. Alcuin Deutsch of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., and the Rt. Rev. Justus Wirth, of St. Bede's Abbey, Peru, Illinois. A large number of the clergy, sisters, students of St. Peter's College, parishioners from the surrounding districts, and friends from distant parts joined in the procession from the College to St. Peter's Church. The long procession, led by one of the pioneers, Brother Aloysius, halted about midway to the church, at the cross road before Muenster where it was joined by a large delegation from Humboldt. Before the actual benediction and installation, the official documents were read by the Rt. Rev. Alcuin Deutsch and the Ver. Rev. P. Peter, V.G. Then followed the profession of faith and the required oaths by Abbot Severin, the Bishop's allocution, the prostration during the chanting of the penitential psalms, the singing of the litany of All Saints, the symbolic offering of bread and wine and candles, the investiture with crosier, ring and mitre, the imposition of hands, the first solemn blessing of the people by the new prelate, the kissing of the ring as a symbol of loyalty by his priests. At the Pontifical High Mass which followed, Fathers Innocent and Norbert, brothers of Abbot Severin, assisted as deacon and subdeacon of the Mass, Prior Peter was assistant priest, Fathers Fridolin and Casimir were deacons of honor. Archbishop Matthieu preached the English sermon and Bishop Joseph Busch of St. Cloud, Minn., the German sermon. Pontifical Highmass was concluded with the joyfull singing of the "Te Deum," [illegible] by the Lake Lenore Band.

An outstanding feature of the occasion was the attendance of Mrs. Margareth Gertken, Abbot Severin's mother. Fathers Innocent and Norbert, his brothers and three of his sisters from St. Benedict's Convent, St. Joseph, Minn. Other visitors included: Fathers Bernard Ueberberg, O.M.I., of Regina, Wm. Broeck, O.M.I., of Prince Albert, August Kierdorf, O.M.I. of Winnipeg, J. F. McCaffrey, O.M.I. of Saskatoon, Peter Bieler, O.M.I. of Leipzig, Paul Huland, O.M.I. of Regina, Wm. Klinkhamer, East Grand Forks, Minn., Elias Lemire, Cloquet, Minn., J. A. Murray, Secretary of Archbishop Matthieu; E. Dubois, Rosetown; J. S[illegible]ved, Kuroki.

After the services a banquet was served in the town hall by the ladies of the Muenster parish at which addresses were given by the Hon. Dr. J. M. Uhrich, M.L.A., the Hon. A. F. Totzke, M.P., Archbishop Matthieu, Bishop Busch and Abbot Severin. The singing of the "Laudes Hymenaei," and [illegible]e national Anthem brought the happy occasion to a close. In the evening the students of St. Peter's College presented the play "Garcia Moreno" in the College auditorium.

Soon after his blessing Abbot Severin arranged an extensive program for the excercise of his duties as head of the Abbatia Nullius. On May 22, 1927 he visited St. Elizabeth's Convent and Hospital at Humboldt, and during Mass in the chapel he invested Miss Mary Eva Strom as Sister Lazarina. On May 29 he visited the parish at Cudworth, preached in German and English at the High Mass celebrated by Father Casimir, and in the afternoon blessed the new hospital. On the feast of Pentecost, June 5, he celebrated his first Pontifical High Mass in St. Peter's Church, and conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on 58 children. He blessed the new church of St. George at Naicam on June 15. On June 12, he had blessed the bell of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, south of Carmel. About this time Father Abbot visited Mount Carmel, the highest spot in St. Peter's Colony, and expressed the wish that a large statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel be erected there. Several people immediately donated money for this purpose, and by the middle of June the donations amounted to $225. June 26, Father Abbot visited Lake Lenore, confirmed 50 children, and preached at the High Mass sung by the pastor.

Father Rudolph. Abbot Severin visited the parish of Cudworth a second time, July 3, for confirmation, and on July 10 he confirmed 115 persons at Bruno. On July 12 he received the solemn vows of Frater Xavier in the chapel at St. Peter's Abbey and on July 17 celebrated a Pontifical High Mass on Mt. Carmel at which time the offerings for the statue had increased to $1243.52.

Father Abbot made the following appointments toward the middle of July 1927: Father Leo, for ten years pastor of Bruno, to St. Peter's Church, Muenster, Father Bernard, since 1924 pastor of St. Benedict, to Bruno, Father Aurelius, since September 1924 pastor of St. Peter's Church, to St. Benedict with St. Leo's Church as a mission, Father Leonard, pastor of St. Scholastica's Church south of Humboldt. On July 31, 1927 Father Abbot administered the sacrament of Confirmation to 25 chidren at St. Gregor. On August 10 he invested three young ladies with the religious habit at the Ursuline Convent chapel, Bruno: Clothilda Wasserman, Muenster, as Sister Loyola, Sophia Berthold, Carmel, as Sister Rita, Anna Kloster, Grosswerder as Sister Elizabeth. At the same occasion he received the vows of Sisters Aloysia Dauk, Ambrosia Nenzel and Bernarda Mueller. Three days later, August 14, he confirmed 163 persons in St. John's Church, Willmont parishioners of St. John's Church and St. Joseph's parish, Folda.

On August 21 Father Abbot attended the Katholikentag at Bruno and preached the festive sermon. Next Sunday, August 28, he confirmed 65 children in the Sacred Heart parish, Watson and on September 4, 27 candidates at Dana. On the same day Fratres Sylvester, Luke, Aloysius and Xavier were ordained subdeacons at Muenster by Bishop Vincent Wehrle, O.S.B., Bismarck, North Dakota, after he had preached the Father's annual retreat the preceding week. On September 6 the Abbot blessed the chapel of the Ursuline Sisters at Humboldt where three Sisters took over the teaching duties in the Separate School. On September 11 Abbot Severin confirmed 24 children of St. Oswald's Mission south of Watson. The following Sunday conducted the canonical visitation at Leofeld, and on September 25 and October 2 at Pilger and Marysburg. These canonical visitations are prescribed by the Church from time to time so that the superior may have an accurate knowledge of the spiritual and temporal conditions of his diocese. The other parishes of the Abbey Nullius were visited by the Abbot during the spring and summer of 1928.

The foregoing brief sketch indicates that the life of an Abbot Ordinary is not a sinecure, but a life of activity coupled with responsibility towards God, towards the Church and towards the souls under his care. St. Benedict in his Rule reminds the Abbot "Let him know that he who undertaketh the government of souls must prepare himself to give an account for them; and whatever number of brethren he hath under his charge, let him be sure that on judgement day he will without doubt, have to give an account to the Lord for all these souls in addition to that of his own."

His Excellency Msgr. Andrea Cassulo, the Apostolic Delegate for Canada and Newfoundland, visited the Abbey from October 29 to November 1, 1927. He was accompanied by Msgr. J. Bearzotti, his secretary and Msgr. J. J. Blair. Father Abbot met them at Totzke and accompanied them to Humboldt where a large crowd met them at the station. During the course of his stay he attended receptions in Muenster, Humboldt and Bruno. On July 9, and 10, 1935, Archbishop Cassulo again visited the Abbey, and gave a very fine recommendation to the two Catholic weeklies, St. Peter's Bote, and The Prairie Messenger. Archbishop Cassulo's successor, the present Apostolic Delegate Most Reverend Ildebrando Antoniutti, Titular Archbishop of Synnada, visited the Abbey briefly in the summer of 1939 and again in the fall of 1951. Like his predecessor he was kindness itself in his meetings with the Ordinary and community.

On April 18, 1928, Abbot Severin presided at the election of the Superior of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth at Humboldt. Sister Seraphina was elected to succeed Sister Walburga whose term had expired. On May 27, Fathers Sylvester, Luke, Aloysius, and Xavier were ordained deacons by Bishop Prud'homme in St. Paul's Church Saskatoon. On May 25 Father Abbot attended the silver jubilee of the priesthood of Father Innocent, his brother at St. John's Abbey, and on June 3 he conducted the canonical visitation at Annaheim and conferred the sacrament of confirmation on a large number of children. On June 10 he attended the silver jubilee celebration of St. Boniface's Church, Leofeld, and confirmed the children. He was present the next day also, for the silver jubilee of their

pastor Father Fridolin. On the feast of St. Norbert, June 6, Norbert Schwinghammer of Bruno, was received into the novitiate, keeping his baptismal name. He left the same day for St. John's Abbey to prepare for the priesthood there. About the same time Fathers Cosmas and Wilfrid were sent to the University of Minnesota to pursue higher studies.

SILVER JUBILEE OF COLONY

It was strenuous and exacting work that Abbot Severin was called upon to perform during the first year he was head of St. Peter's Abbey Nullius. With joy and gladness Abbot Severin and the entire St. Peter's Colony were able to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the territory June 27, 28, and 29, 1928.

The first day, children's day, began with Pontifical High Mass by Abbot Severin in St. Peter's Church with Prior Peter as assistant priest, Fathers Matthew and Luke as deacon and subdeacon, Fathers Fridolin and Casimir as deacons of honor. Father Meinrad Seifermann, O.S.B., the founder of the first parish, Leofeld, preached in German and Father Bernard preached in English. About a thousand children, assembled from the various parishes, sang the Missa de Angelis. During the course of the afternoon, the Hon. J. G. Gardiner, premier of Saskatchewan, now federal minister of agriculture, delivered a speech.

The second day was dedicated to the memory of all deceased pioneers. The Abbot celebrated a Pontifical Requiem High Mass at which Subprior Joseph was assistant priest, Fathers Meinrad and Sylvester deacon and subdeacon, Fathers Hilland, O.M.I. and Theo. Schweers, O.M.I., deacons of honor. In his sermon Father Lawrence made special mention of Abbot Bruno, Abbot Peter Engel and Bishop Pascal whom God had already called to their reward. The afternoon was devoted, for the most part, to the Volksverein. Father August Kierdorf, the secretary of the immigration department of the Verein, announced that during the past four years more than 12,000 German Catholic immigrants were aided and placed among Catholic surroundings, while Mr. W. F. Hargarten of Bruno secretary of the teachers bureau of the Verein, stated that through his services more than a hundred schools were supplied with Catholic teachers. The students of St. Peter's College staged "The Crusader's Legacy" in the college auditorium in the evening. The evening of the first day they had presented "The Blind Prince."

The third day of the Jubilee, the feast of St. [illegible] and Paul, the patronal feast of St. Peter's Abbey, St. Peter's Colony and St. Peter's Church, was very important and impressive. Bishop Prud'homme of Prince Albert celebrated the Pontifical High Mass, at which Fathers Sylvester Seifermann, Luke Bockmann, Aloysius Herriges and Xavier Benning, were elevated to the priesthood. Since the church was not large enough, the services were conducted in the portico of the church. Prior Peter was assistant priest, Fathers P. Bieler, O.M.I., and Francis, O.S.B., deacon and subdeacon. Fathers L. Chauvin and A. Laconte deacons of honor. Bishop Prud'homme preached the festive sermon and paid glowing tribute to the Order of St. Benedict in general, and the work accomplished by the members of that order in St. Peter's Colony in particular. He called this jubilee day a day of joy and a day of glory.

Present at the celebration, besides those already mentioned above and all the Fathers of St. Peter's Abbey, were: Very Rev. Father Bernard Ueberberg, O.M.I., Provincial of the German Oblates in Canada, Fathers Wm. Brueck, O.M.I., William Brabender, O.M.I., John Schwebius, O.M.I., Peter Bieler, O.M.I., Conrad Maier, O.M.I., Minwegen, O.M.I., Francis Palm, O.M.I., W. B. Grant, O.M.I., M. J. O'Leary, Drahomiretzki, a Ruthenian priest and an immense concourse of people from the entire Colony and from distant points outside the district. Congratulatory telegrams were received from His Excellency, the Most Rev. Andrew Casuolo, Canada's Apostolic Delegate, a great number of Bishops, Benedictine Abbeys and scores of others including the Hon. Charles Dunning, Canada's Minister of Railways.

Bands from St. Benedict and Bruno, fireworks in the evening and other forms of entertainment, helped to make the jubilee celebration a memorable one. A highlight of the festival was the speech by Mr. A. F. Tozke, member of the Parliament for Humboldt and the parade, in which nearly all the parishes took part with floats and banners. Fulda and Willmont had miniature replicas of their churches as floats, Leofeld a float representing the three theological virtues, Faith, Hope and Charity, Watson a scene depicting the life of a missionary of 1903 to 1904.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament with

Bishop Prud'homme officiating, assisted by Fathers Mathias and John as deacon and subdeacon, and the joyous singing of the Te Deum closed the Silver Jubilee. To complete the joys of this celebration, His Holiness, Pope Pius XI sent to Abbot Severin a beautiful, large photograph of himself and the privilege of bestowing the Apostolic blessing on the members of the Abbey and colony The Holy Father also granted the concession of inserting the name of the Abbot Ordinary in the Canon of the Mass

ABBOT SEVERIN CELEBRATES SILVER JUBILEE OF [illegible]

Abbot Severin was ordained priest on June 7, 1907, and when he had completed twenty five years in the sacred ministry his monks would not permit the anniversary to pass without a fitting celebration. He consented to their plans and chose June 29, 1932, the patronal feast of the Abbey and the Colony as the date for the jubilee. On that day Bishop Prud'homme ordained Fathers Gregory Augustine and Alphonse during his Mass at 7 o'clock in St Peter's Cathedral. At 10:00 o clock the Abbot celebrated a Pontifical High Mass of thanksgiving. Prior Peter was assistant priest, Fathers Wilfrid and Paul deacon and subdeacon, and Fathers Hilary Doerfler, O.S.B., (a brother of Abbot Bruno) and Joseph Steiger of Earling, Iowa, were deacons of honor Archbishop James McGuigan of Regina, now Cardinal Archbishop of Toronto, preached the English sermon and Bishop Prud-homme the German sermon

Spiritual bouquets from the parishes and missions were presented to the Abbot Jubilarian. while little Magdalene Bergerman presented a beautiful silver wreath in the name of the Muenster parish. At the banquet in the College Archbishop McGuigan and Bishop Prud'homme spoke and Abbot Severin responded. In the evening the the orchestra presented a concert in the College auditorium. Also present at the jubilee were Msgr Janssen, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Regina, Very Rev Thomas Schnerch. O M. I., Provincial of the German Oblates, Dr J M. Uhrich and many others.

[illegible] Bishop Prud'homme right Abbot Severin
background, RCMP Constable, Abbot Alcuin, Abbot Justin

Crowd at Gethsemane pilgrimage, Sept 16, 1933

Blessing of the Mount by Abbot Michael, with Fathers Dominic, Joseph and assistants.

Mount Carmel

The Blessed Mother of God, is no stranger to the Benedictine Fathers and the faithful of St. Peter's Colony. Mount Carmel named after the famous Mt. Carmel in Northern Samaria, where the prophet Elias had his abode, had been named before the arrival of the Benedictines in Saskatchewan. It is the highest point in the [illegible] feet above sea level, 95 feet higher than [illegible] Station, three and one half miles to the south. Naturally the pioneers were very much interested to learn how this hill received its name and why a crude cross had been erected on its summit. Father Chrysostom wrote to Mr. David Venne, a former buffalo hunter, living in the northwestern section of St. Peter's Colony, in 1911 about this. Mr. Venne's reply only stated that the mount was formerly known by the name of "Big Butte," meaning big hill.

In 1921 Father Chrysostom wrote to the Geographic Board of Canada, and under date of August 8 received the following reply from Mr. R. Douglas, secretary of the Board: "I am in receipt of your letter of 1st instant enquiring about the name of Mt. Carmel, section 16, township 38, range 24, west of the 2nd meridian. The trail through the township was surveyed in 1886 by Lestock Reid, who calls the hill Mt. Carmel or the Hill of the Cross. This is the earliest reference to Mt. Carmel on record. I fancy a former name for the hill was 'Big Butte' though I have not found this name on my map. A map of the Northwest Territories, 1878, calls the hill "Keesptanow Hill." This is the same as Butler's 'Spathanaw Watch' both names meaning 'high hill.' The Board's copy of Butler's book has a picture of the hill."

Sir William Butler in his book, "The Wild North Land" published in 1873, describes Mt. Carmel as follows: "The hill of the Wolverine a the lonely Spathanaw Watchs have witnessed many a deed of Indian daring and Indian perfidy. Alone in a vast waste the Spathanaw Watch lifts his head, thickets and lakes are at its base, a lonely grave at its top, around four hundred miles of horizon, a view so vast that endless space seems for once to find embodiment, and at a single glance the eye is satisfied with immensity. There is no mountain range to come up across the sky-line, no river to lay its glistening folds along the middle distance, no dark forest to give shade to foreground or to fringe perspective, no speck of life, no track of men, nothing but the wilderness. Reduced to its nakedness, space stands forth with almost terrible grandeur." What a fascinating description of Mt. Carmel. Though perhaps somewhat exaggerated, it is a real gem. What description would Butler give of Mt. Carmel now, since towns and villages, churches, parishes and farm homes have sprung up all around the "hill" in the "vast waste"? A person with good eyes standing on Mt. Carmel and looking to the north, east, south and west on a clear day may see, St. John's Church at Willmont, St. Bernard's Church, Pilger, St. Joseph's Church, Fulda, Assumption Church Marysburg, St. Anthony's Church, Lake Lenore, (with binoculars), St. Augustine's Church, Humboldt, St. Peter's Church, Muenster, St. Peter's College, Muenster, Our Lady's Church, Carmel, Immaculate Conception Church south of Carmel and the Ruthenian Church to the west. All these churches and parishes were erected in the last fifty years. What a beautiful spot for a place of pilgrimage! Our Blessed Lady is as it were, standing in the midst the Colony, watching over her children, and from the top of the mount, symbolized by her statue dispensing her favors!

Whether there was a grave on the top of the mount or not is a disputed question. No trace of a grave could be detected when the summit was leveled and the foundation for the pedestal of the statue of Our Lady was dug in 1928. More likely a cross was on the top of the hill before the year 1886, since Lestock Reid in that year called it the "Hill of the Cross." On September 10, 1928, Isidor Dumas, 70 years of age at the time, stated that about fifty years ago, probably in the year 1872, a Scottish Irish Catholic girl was ordered by her parents to marry a non-Catholic man. The home of the girl was Fish Creek and her name was Hatty (Henrietta?) MacKay. In order to escape the marriage she fled from home and escaped into the wilderness. Either inadvertantly or otherwise she took poison and died. Mr. Dumas stated that he made the coffin for the dead girl and with the help of Alexander Ablass buried the girl to the

northeast of Mount Carmel, but close by. Four or five years later the skull showed above ground, a sign that the grave must have been shallow and rather exposed to wild animals. The cross which had been placed on top of the mount and fashioned out of popular wood had crumbled and fallen to the ground when Mr F J Lange came there in 1902 on his exploration trip through the proposed Colony He replaced it with a new cross fashioned from the same materia

The first Benedictine to set foot on the Mount was Father Conrad Glatzmeier, O.S B then the pastor of Albany, Minn., and vitally interested in the founding of the Colony That was on September 22, 1902 He was accompanied by Mathias Butala of Millerville, Minn. and Carl Hondl, Albany, Minn. Father Bruno paid his first visit to Mt. Carmel on September 23, 1902, accompanied by H J Haskamp and John Hoeschen It was the wish of Abbot Bruno, as well as of the Fathers and pioneer settlers, that Mt. Carmel should eventually become a place of pilgrimage. However, there were so many pressing problems to be met in those days that this wish could not be carried out until later

On July 22, 1921, Father Chrysostom, Leo Woell and Edward M. Bruning of Muenster went to Mt. Carmel to interview Mr John Bunko on whose homestead the Mount was located Their intention was to purchase the mount or ask Mr Bunko to donate it as a place of pilgrimage. Mr Bunko received the delegation kindly and obligingly donated enough land for the proposed chapel and sold 11 more acres, as parking space for the autos of the pilgrims. Later it was necessary to buy five more acres for further parking space

Now that the mount was purchased it was time to execute the wish of Abbot Bruno Meanwhile he had died, but his successor, Abbot Michael, carried out his wish. A temporary primitive chapel had been built on top of the mount during the summer of 1922, and an altar placed within it On September 10 Abbot Michael, surrounded by almost all the priests of the colony and thousands of the faithful, solemnly blessed the Mount, while the men's choir from Muenster, supported by Mr Pitzel and Mr. Schaeffer of Humboldt sang the "Magnificat" and other Hymns in honor of the Blessed Virgin, Father Ignatius played a portable organ. After the dedication Abbot Michael celebrated Pontifical High Mass, assisted by Prior Peter as assistant priest, Fathers Subprior Joseph Sittenauer and Dominic as deacon and subdeacon, Fathers Th. Schmidt and Fridolin as deacons of honor Abbot Michael delivered an inspiring sermon in English, and in German, after which he dedicated the entire territory of the Abbey Nullius to the Blessed Virgin. He announced that henceforth the pilgrimage would be an annual event to be held on the Sunday following the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Well over 3,500 people attended this first pilgrimage to Mt Carmel

The pilgrimage on July 22, 1923. was attended by more than a thousand. Abbot Michael again celebrated Pontifical High Mass and his assistants were the same as the previous year with the exception that the deacons of honor were Father Paul Neussendoefer, O.S.B., a visitor from St. John's Abbey, and Father Chrysostom. Father Meinrad, who again visited the Colony, preached the sermon Father Matthew, pastor of Carmel, said Mass early in the morning and distributed Holy Communion. this being the first time that Holy Communion was distributed on the Mount. Because the chapel was on top of the Mount, the people could not see the altar very well, so it was moved to the slope, on the western side of the Mount. A client of the Blessed Virgin from the parish of Carmel pledged to donate the sum of $500 for a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Mt Carmel to crown the hill

The third pilgrimage to Mt Carmel took place on July 20, 1924 In the absence of the Abbot Ordinary who was conducting a retreat for the Benedictine Sisters at St Benedict's Convent, St Joseph Minn., Prior Peter celebrated a solemn High Mass at which Father Lawrence preached. Miss Agnes Nenzel of Muenster was organist and for the third time in succession the men's choir of Muenster sang The fourth pilgrimage took place on July 19, 1925. Because of heavy rains and muddy roads only about 500 pilgrims were present. Abbot Michael celebrated a pontifical Mass and preached a short sermon

July 18. 1926 was the date of the fifth pilgrimage. It was a beautiful day in contrast to the preceding year. and Holy Masses were said from early in the morning until 10:30, when Father Stephen

who had been ordained that year said his first Solemn High Mass in the Colony, and Father Lawrence preached. At the solemn procession around the mount in the afternoon the newly ordained priest carried the Blessed Sacrament while the pilgrims prayed the Rosary and sang hymns. The choir of the Holy Guardian Angels' Church Engelfeld under the direction of Mr. John Schwinghammer sang during the services.

The sixth pilgrimage to our Lady of Mt. Carmel took place on July 17, 1927 and this was the first time Abbot Severin held pontifical services on the Mount. Since it had rained heavily, the roads were almost impassible, and it was only with great difficulty that the two autos which conveyed Abbot Severin and his assistants arrived on the Mount. Many cars were stuck in the mud on the way to the hill, but about 800 pilgrims managed to attend the services. The Abbot was assisted by Prior Peter as assistant priest, Fathers Leo and Leonard as deacons of honor and Fathers Stephen and Aloysius as deacon and subdeacon, and Prior Peter preached. The Muenster choir was again in attendence.

Contributions toward a statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel had come in gradually and at this time amounted to $1,250. The statue, eight feet high, carved from Carara marble by an Italian artist, was ordered on July 30, 1927 at a cost of $1000. It arrived at Carmel on February 10, 1928. Mr. Antonio Molaro of Saskatoon, an expert stone mason and architect, constructed the foundation and pedestal for the statue so that it could be erected on June 12, 1928, just a few weeks before St. Peter's Colony celebrated its silver jubilee. All parishes of the Colony contributed generously for the statue and also for the construction of a stone chapel, to replace the rickety wooden one, likewise for the fourteen stations of the Cross which were also built under the direction of Mr. Molaro. The statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel was solemnly blessed on July 22, 1928, at the beginning of the afternoon services by Abbot Severin who had celebrated a pontifical Mass that morning. Present at these services were about 800 pilgrims. One of the Masses celebrated that morning was in the Greek rite by Father Drahomiretski. He also preached a short sermon in the Ruthenian language.

At the eight and ninth pilgrimage on Mt. Carmel, July 21, 1929 July 20, 1930, Abbot Severin again conducted pontifical services. The attendance in 1929 exceeded 5000 and in 1930 3000. Father George Scheffold, O.S.B. of St. John's Abbey, who a number of years before had preached missions in almost all parishes of the Colony, delivered the sermon on both occasions. On account of the adverse weather prevailing the procession with the Blessed Sacrament had to be omitted in 1929. Short sermons were preached by Fathers Wilfrid and Francis at the low Masses in 1930. A loud speaker was used for the first time at this pilgrimage and was of great assistance to the preachers. Father John delivered a short sermon, after the recitation of the Rosary in 1930, during the afternoon services. As usual the pilgrimage ended with the singing of the Te Deum and the blessing of the sick.

Special significance was added to the tenth pilgrimage on July 19, 1931 when Abbot Lambert Burton, O.S.B., of St. Martin's Abbey, Olympia, Wash., son of the deceased John W. Burton of Humboldt, celebrated his silver jubilee of priesthood on the Mount. He was assisted by Prior Peter and Fathers Dominic, Casimir, Benedict and Rudolph. Twenty five years before, Abbot Lambert, then a monk of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, had offered his first Solemn High Mass at Marysburg, to which parish his parents belonged at the time. On August 28, 1928, he was elected Abbot. At the jubilee service on Mt. Carmel, Father Dominic, who had preached at Abbot Lambert's first Mass, again delivered the sermon. During the afternoon of the pilgrimage, after a sermon by Father Bernard, the singing of the "Veni Creator" and the "Stabat Mater" the stations of the cross were erected by Prior Peter. It was an impressive sight as fourteen young men carried the wooden crosses to be erected during the procession around the Mount. At the procession which followed, Abbot Lambert carried the Blessed Sacrament. The brass band of Bruno, attended the pilgrimage and helped greatly to make this a festive occasion. The veneration of the relics of the Canadian Martyrs and the "Te Deum" closed the pilgrimage.

The eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth pilgrim

ages, July 17, 1932, July 16, 1933, and July 22, 1934, were very much like the preceding. Father Abbot Severin celebrated Pontifical High Mass in the morning. In the afternoon the pilgrims circled the Mount, praying the way of the cross, and again in the procession with the Blessed Sacrament About 3000 to 5000 attended. Sermons were preached in English, German and Polish Father Joseph Kreuter, O.S.B., preached the main sermons in German and English in 1932, Father Marcellus in 1933, and Father Rembert Bunarzik, O.S.B., in 1934 Fathers Rembert and Joseph were members of St John's Abbey conducting retreats in the Colony those years. Father Joseph Steiger of Earling Iowa also preached an impressive sermon in 1932.

Because Father Abbot was attending the General Chapter of the American Cassinese Congregation of Benedictines in 1935, there was no Pontifical Mass that year, but Father Norbert Schwinghammer, O.S.B., who had been ordained the previous June, celebrated a solemn High Mass with Fathers Aloysius and Alphonse as deacon and subdeacon. Father Wilfrid preached at the morning service and Fathers Lawrence and Augustine in the afternoon. On that day about 2000 Communions were distributed

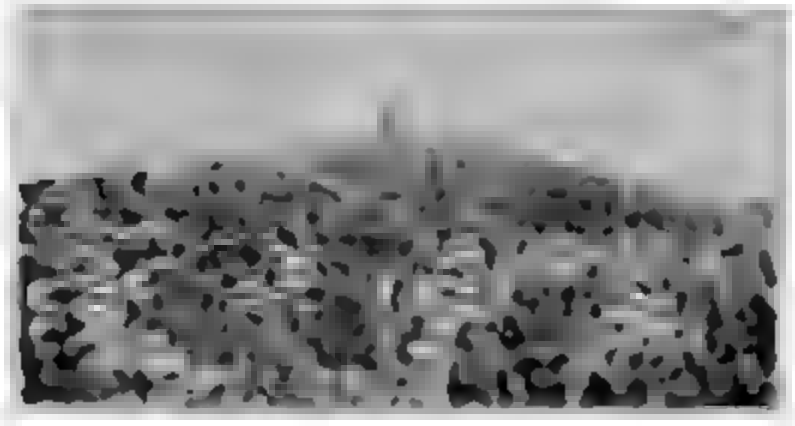
At the pilgrimage of July 19, 1936 and July 18 1937, the same procedure of the preceding pilgrimage was followed Father Abbot sang a Pontifical High Mass and Prior Peter delivered the sermon in 1936, while Father Andrew Kohlbeck, O.S.B., a monk of Assumption Abbey, Richardton. North Dakota preached in 1937

The seventeenth annual pilgrimage, July 17 1938, was a special occasion. For a number of months Mr Antonio Molaro and a group of stone masons from Saskatoon, assisted by local men, had constructed a chapel and altar of limestones picked at the Mount and hewn into proper shape. It was solemnly blessed on the pilgrimage day. The stones, carefully chosen for shape and color make it truly beautiful. The east side of the chapel is open so that the thousands of pilgrims can conveniently attend the service from any position from the chapel to the statue. As in previous years, Father Abbot celebrated the Pontifical High Mass, and Prior Peter preached in German and Father Elmer Easenschenk, O.S.B. a monk of St John's Abbey, in English. The latter expressed great surprise at the beauty of the shrine and had words of praise for the pilgrims, more than 5000, who had come to pay their homage to God and their loyalty to the Mother of God. Father Abbot, in his sermon that afternoon expressed the same sentiments, and had words of special praise for Mr. Molaro, Father Stephen and the members of the Carmel parish who had aided in the erection of the beautiful chapel. This chapel now stands as a monument of [illegible] love and devotion to God and his Blessed Mother

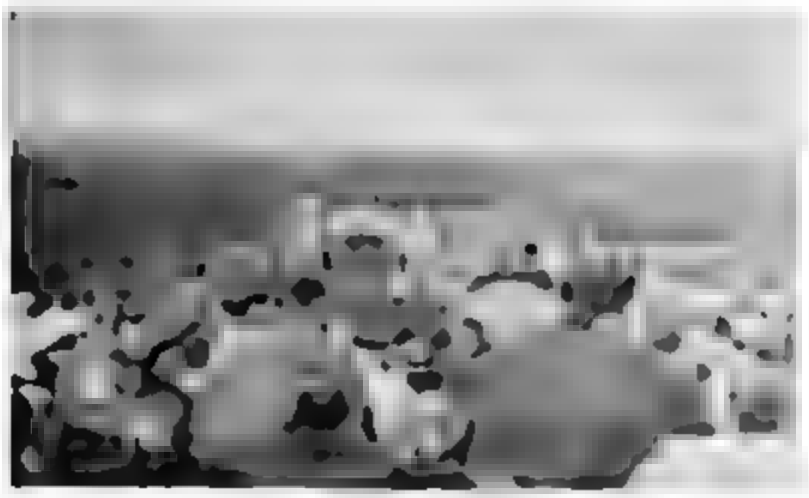
Another pleasant surprise was in store for the faithful who attended the next pilgrimage, July 16. 1939 Fourteen stations of the cross, each a massive cairn of local limestones in which was embedded a bronze plaque depicting the scene in bas relief, had been built by Mr Molaro and his men in the late summer and fall of 1938. Again Father Abbot celebrated Pontifical High Mass at which Father Jerome Gassner, O.S.B., a monk of the Abbey of Seitenstetten, Austria, delivered the German sermon. Father Gregory preached in the afternoon after the canonical erection of the stations of the cross by Father Abbot. The beautiful statue on the summit, the picturesque chapel on its slope and the impressive stations of the cross, are works of art and proof of the generosity of the inhabitants of St. Peter's Colony and of their love for the Mother of Christ

When Abbot Severin celebrated his silver jubilee of the priesthood on June 29, 1932, the parishes and missions of the Colony presented a gift of $1,000, which sum he used solely for the developement of Mt Carmel. On several occasions the collection taken up on the day of pilgrimage amounted to about $500 Father Abbot and his Fathers did not accept a cent for their labors on the mount In spite of this, after all the bills were in a debt of $2000 had been incurred in 1939 by the construction of the chapel and stations This has subsequently been paid. Now (1952 there is a credit balance in the Mount Carmel Pilgrimage Fund of about $6000 Lightning struck the pedestal of of the statue on July 9, 1937, and again 1950, but did not damage the statue itself In 1937 the damage was slight and easily repaired, but it was considerable in 1950. Lightning arresters were erected in 1951 by Mr Molaro to guard against future occurrences

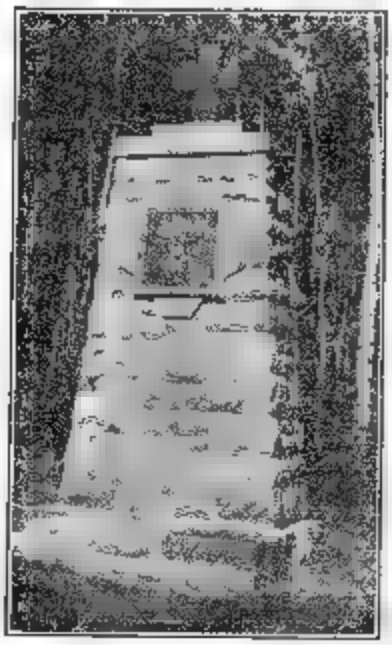
The celebrant of the Pontifical Mass at the



[illegible] at Mt. Carmel



View of chapel from [illegible]



One of the Stations of the cross encircling the hill.

twentieth pilgrimage, July 21, 1940, was Bishop Joseph Guy, O.M.I., of Gravelbourg. Father Bernard delivered the sermon, and Abbot Severin attended in the sanctuary. The choir from St. Boniface Church, Leofeld sang in 1939 and 1940.

The pilgrimages from 1940 to 1952 followed the accustomed schedule and need not be described in more detail. The number of pilgrims grew each year. Of special interest was the gigantic Family Rosary Crusade rally on the Mount September 26, 1948. More than 10,000 pilgrims gathered about the statue of Our Lady on this hallowed hill, and before her chapel on its slope to honor her and to ask her blessing in fulfilling the request she made at Fatima in 1907. Never before had Mt. Carmel seen so many distinguished ecclesiastics as on this day. The weather for this season of the year was perfect. As Prior Peter remarked in his sermon it almost reminded the pilgrims of the miracle of the sun witnessed by 70,000 in Fatima, Portugal October 7, 1917. Archbishop O'Neill of Regina celebrated the Pontifical High Mass, and the following ordinaries of Saskatchewan assisted; Bishop Joseph Lemieux, O.P., of Gravelbourg, Bishop Philip F. Pocock of Saskatoon, Rt. Rev. Severin Gertken, O.S.B., Abbot Ordinary of St. Peter's Abbey Nullius, Father Patrick Peyton, the director of the Family Rosary Crusade, delivered an inspiring sermon. In the afternoon the bishops and Father Abbot addressed the pilgrims, and the customary processions with the Blessed Sacrament, and the way of the cross took place.

✝ Later Deaths ✝

When Abbot Severin was elected head of St Peter's Abbey there were only four graves in the Abbey cemetery, those of Abbot Bruno, Father John, Father Boniface and Brother Rhabanus. A fifth was added when the remains of Prior Oswald Moosmueller were transferred from the deserted Cluny Priory in Illinois to Saskatchewan. Now there are twenty graves in the little cemetery The deaths of Father John Baltrey, Abbot Bruno,, Brothers Rhabanus, Edmund and Aloysius and Novice Joseph Kelly have been recorded in preceeding pages

Fr. Boniface Puth, O. S. B.

The first priest to die in the new abbey building was Father Boniface Puth. Born in Cobern, Germany, Nov. 1, 1864, he was over 40 years old when he was ordained by Bishop Bonomelli in Cremona Italy, June 17 1905 Shortly after his ordination he came to the United States and worked for a time in the Diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota. Feeling called to the Benedictine Order, came to Muenster where he was invested by Prior Alfred as a novice and a year later made his vows June 24, 1908. As a religious he led an exemplary life and served as a model for his younger confreres From 1909 to 1912 he attended the missions at Carmel, Dead Moose Lake and Pilger, from 1913 to 1916 he was chaplain for the Sisters of St. Elizabeth and the hospital at Humboldt He was recalled to the Abbey in 1916, and, though suffering from poor health, made himself useful at various occupations while edifying all by his regularity and good example. Two years before his death he underwent a serious operation which apparently did not bring him much relief. He suffered with patience and frequently said that he was prepared to meet his Maker Death came to him unexpectedly during the night of January 28-29 1924; he was found dead on the floor of his room After a solemn Pontifical Requiem, January 31, by Abbot Michael, he was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery

Fr. Matthias Steger, O. S. B.

Seven years after the passing of Father Boniface, Fatehr Matthias Steger died. Father Matthias was born December 31, 1874 at Almanshofen, Bavaria, and after his primary education in his home, he took up his higher studies at the Benedictine school in Augsburg. He came to America and joined the little Benedictine Priory of Cluny in Illinois, where he pronounced his vows on April 27, 1894 Prior Oswald Moosmueller sent him to St Vincent Archabbey in Pennsylvania to complete his philosophical and theological studies. There he was

ordained priest on May 26, 1899, by Bishop Richard Phelen of Pittsburg, and celebrated his first Solemn High Mass, one of the assistants being Frater Peter. After he returned to Cluny Father Matthias was Prior Oswald's right hand man until the latter's death January 10, 1901. When Father Alfred Mayer was appointed successor to Prior Oswald and the community moved to Saskatchewan, Father Matthias remained at Cluny as administrator of the property. As soon as he had settled the affairs there he too started out for Saskatchewan. His journey was held up for a time because the ice had swept away the wooden railway bridge at Saskatoon but he finally arrived in April 1904. Prior Alfred appointed him subprior of the monastery, which post he held until the fall of the same year. In October 1907 he was appointed pastor of St. Boniface Church at Leofeld. Here he labored successfully for sixteen years until April 1923 when he was appointed pastor of Marysburg. Here also he worked successfully and edified his congregation by his piety, conscientiousness and zeal for the house of God. During the last few years of his life he suffered considerably because cancer of the stomach had gradually developed without his knowledge. In company with Prior Peter he went to Mackin, Sask., where he was operated in St. Joseph's Hospital, but a few days later on June 27, 1931, he passed away. The body was brought to Muenster and after Pontifical Requiem High Mass was interred in the Abbey cemetery.

Five years later the angel of death called Father Leo Ojdowski. He was born September 8, 1871 at Heinrichsfeld, German-Poland, and emigrated to the United States with his parents. They settled at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where as a young man he worked in the Carnegie foundry. He earned good wages and saved enough to furnish a comfortable home for his parents. Having done this filial work, he followed a long cherished wish to become a Benedictine, and went to Cluny Priory where he began his studies. In the summer of 1900 he was received into the novitiate by Prior Oswald and a year later, July 11, 1901, was admitted to vows. Two years later in the fall of 1903 he and Brother Rhaban came to Canada. During the early days, while still continuing his studies for the priesthood, he made many trips to Rosthern with team

Fr. Leo Ojdowski, O. S. B.

and wagon. Bishop Pascal ordained him April 29, 1906 in the log church at Muenster, and he celebrated his first solemn High Mass in his home parish at Pittsburg. On his return he replaced Father Meinrad at Leofeld, when the latter took a well deserved trip to his homeland. When Father Meinrad was appointed pastor of Watson, Father Leo remained pastor of Leofeld, but his stay was not long, for on October 13, 1907 he became pastor of St. Benedict with the mission of St. Leo. In March of 1909 he was recalled to Muenster to become the manager of the Abbey farm. On Sundays he frequently had the parish High Mass or attended the mission at St. Gregor. In May 1917 he became pastor of St. Bruno's Church and labored successfully there the next ten years and in July 1927 Abbot Severin appointed him pastor of Muenster, and here on May17, 1931, he celebrated his silver jubilee of priesthood. At this time he was [illegible] years old, at his own request was given [illegible] parish of Engelfeld in August 1931. On Pentecost Sunday 1935, he became seriously ill. He was relieved of his pastoral charge and sent to St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, but when no cure could be expected, he was taken to St. Michael's Hospital, Cudworth, where under the kind

care of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth and his sister Helen he awaited the end. He died on July 11, 1936, the feast of the Solemnity of St. Benedict, the day on which he had made his religious profession thirty five years before. Abbot Severin had visited him frequently during his months of suffering. At the funeral, July 20, 1936 Abbot Severin sang the Pontifical Requiem, assisted by Prior Peter and Fathers Casimir and Fridolin. He was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery.

In 1939 the Abbey lost two more of its members by death, Father Fridolin Tembreull on June 27 and Father Sylvester Seifermann, November 4.

Fr. Fridolin Tembreull, O. S. B.

Father Fridolin was born on February 17, 1876 at Piere, Minn. As a youth of 21 he entered the Order of St. Benedict at St. John's Abbey and pronounced his vows on August 15, 1898. On June 11, 1903 he was ordained by Bishop Trobec of St. Cloud. As apothecary at the Abbey he acquired considerable knowledge of medicine and he was for a time the infirmarian for the Abbey and the students of St. John's University. Though he appeared to be robust he was not a very healthy man, having had tuberculosis in his youth. He joined St. Peter's Abbey in 1919 and was given charge of Sacred Heart Parish, Watson, by Abbot Michael. On October 25, 1921 he became Prior and procurator, but the heavy debt proved too big a burden, and in November 1922 he was transferred to Assumption Parish, Dead Moose Lake and Father Casimir took his place. In March 1923 Father Fridolin was transferred to St. Boniface parish, Leofred, which he administered successfully, until his final illness. A short stay in the hospitals at Cudworth and Saskatoon brought no relief, so, accompanied by Father Abbot he went to the Mayo Clinic, at Rochester, Minn. An exploratory operation disclosed cancer of the pancreas which had spread to other organs. He died June 27, 1939 at St. Cloud, Minn. The body was brought to Muenster and after a Pontifical Requiem was interred in the Abbey cemetery.

Fr. Sylvester Seifermann, O. S. B.

Father Sylvester Seifermann was born on April 5, 1900 at Springhill, Minn., and received the name John in baptism. After completing his elementary education in his home town he went to St. John's College, with the intention of becoming a Benedictine priest like his uncle, Father Menrad. He came to Saskatchewan in the summer of 1921, and entered the novitiate in 1922, receiving the religious name Sylvester. A year later made his vows, July 12. He was ordained at Muenster, June 29, 1928, by Bishop Prud'homme and celebrated his first solemn High Mass in Springhill, Minn. He returned to Muenster in the fall to teach in

the College, but a week later, had to discontinue because of a hemorrhage. The next eleven years were very difficult ones for him. Examination in Saskatoon disclosed that he was suffering from tuberculosis and the doctors recomended treatment in the sanitorium. After seven years treatment there he improved sufficiently to be able to say Mass occasionally. He underwent a number of operations parts of his ribs were removed and one of his lungs was collapsed. His patience and cheerfulness edified the staff and patients alike. Finally his physicians allowed him to be transferred to St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Humboldt, which gave Father Sylvester much joy, since he was now closer to his confreres. Here he remained for four years. At times he felt well enough to be taken for short [illegible] through the country by the Fathers from the neighboring parishes. However, hemorrages recurred, leaving him weak, and the last Sacraments were administered to him several times. On November 3, 1939, after an especially severe attack, Father Dominic again administered the last rites, and on November 4 he peacefully passed away. His death occurred on the day Brother Aloysius was buried. Father Abbot sang a Pontifical Requiem and his body was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery.

The following year Father Casimir Cismowski died July 12. He was born in Kamin, West Prussia, Germany, September 11, 1876, and early in life came to Gilman, Minnesota, with his parents. At the age of fifteen he went to St. John's and nine years later entered the novitiate. He pronounced his first vows July 28, 1901. With the permission of Abbot Peter Engel he joined St. Peter's Priory in July 1903. In the pioneer days he made many wagon trips to Rosthern with Fathers Leo and Rudolph. He was an ardent hunter, and many a prairie chicken and duck fell before his gun to be eaten at the next camping spot on those long trips. Bishop Pascal liked to go hunting with Frater Casimir. Father Casimir and Father Leo were ordained by Bishop Pascal in the log church at Muenster, April 29, 1906. On June 14, the feast of Corpus Christi, he celebrated his first solemn High Mass in the beautiful grove to the northwest of the Monastery building. His parents had taken up a homestead in the district in 1905 and had the happiness of attending the service. He was often sent to conduct Sunday services at various missions, was a good master of ceremonies, a good singer and cornet player, and was able to preach English, German and Polish. He was sent to Toronto to

Fr. Casimir Cismowski, O. S. B.

learn the mechanics of the linotype machine and for a time was typesetter in the printing office. Toward the beginning of 1913 he attended the missions of Dead Moose Lake and Pilger twice a month, and in 1915 became the first resident pastor at Dead Moose Lake. During his stay here the school and Sisters' residence and rectory were erected, and after the destruction of the frame church by the tornado of 1919, the present imposing brick church was built. In 1922 he was appointed Prior, but did not retain this post long, being appointed pastor of St. Michael's Church, Cudworth, in September 1924. Here he labored to the end of his life. On July 12, 1940, shortly after midnight he suffered a heart attack, but managed to drive to the hospital. During the day he seemed to improve but later in the evening suffered another attack. Father Bruno Schmidt, O. S. B., pastor of the neighboring parish of Leofeld, was called, but by the time he arrived Father Casimir had passed away. His body was taken to Muenster and after Pontifical Requiem services by Abbot Severin, was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery.

Fr. Rudolph Palm, O. S. B.

Father Rudolph Palm, another pioneer, was called two years after the death of Father Casimir. He was born at Knopp, Rhenish-Bavaria, [illegible] April, 23, 1877 and came to the United States a young man. He made his preliminary studies for the priesthood at the Benedictine Abbey of St. Bernard, Cullman, Alabama, and later at the Cluny Priory Wetaug, Ill., where he was received into the novitiate by Prior Oswald Moosmueller and made his profession as a Benedictine on October 899 (in 190[illegible]. Prior Alfred Mayer, sent him to St. John's Abbey to complete his studies and here he was ordained deacon in May, 1903. Father Rudolph was filled with enthusiasm when he heard of the proposition made by St. John's Abbey to the Cluny Priory. He was anxious to go to Saskatchewan, and was happy to be among the first members of the Priory to go to Canada. Undoubtedly he made more trips to and from Rosthern than any other member of the pioneer band of Benedictines, approximately forty. Returning from one of these trips one very cold evening, he walked up and down the room before a fire without uttering a word. His confreres plied him with questions to which he gave no reply, until he picked the icicles from his beard, his mouth had been frozen shut. On June 29, 1904 he was ordained by Bishop Trobec of St. Cloud, Minn., and then went to Germany for his first Solemn High Mass in his home parish. While there he became ill and was not able to return to Saskatchewan until 1905. Prior Alfred appointed him farm manager, and on Sundays he frequently held services at Humboldt, becoming resident pastor in 1906. In 1915, he was transferred to St. Benedict where he had the church decorated and a pipe organ installed. In 1924 he became pastor of Lake Lenore where he remained until his death. In 1942 his old stomach trouble returned and he went to Saskatoon for treatment. Following an operation he recovered partially and returned to Lake Lenore, but after a relapse entered St. Elizabeth's Hospital where he died on August 25, 19[illegible]. His body was laid to rest in the Abbey Cemetery after the Pontifica Requiem by Abbot Severin. The evening before his funeral a damaging hail storm passed through the district, and just as the cortege reached the cemetery a heavy thunder shower poured down a deluge of rain. Interment was postponed half an hour and the grave had to be pumped out before burial. Father Rudolph weathered many a storm in his life, and it seemed almost fitting that the elements participated at his funeral.

The next deaths were those of two men known as Father Joseph. Father Joseph Sittenauer died September 11, 1946, and Father Joseph Wicker on April 25, 1947.

Father Joseph Sittenauer was born in Waltenkirchen, Bavaria, Germany, September 24, 1863 receiving the name of Michael in Baptism. He made his elementary studies with the Benedictines at Scheyern and at Fresing and Munich in Bavaria. In 1883 he emigrated to the United States and entered St. Vincent Archabbey, Pennsylvania where he pronounced his first vows on November 29, 1884, before Abbot Boniface Wimmer, the founder of the first Benedictine Monastery in North America. A daughter house of St. Vincent St. Benedict Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, was in need of help and Frater Joseph volunteered his services

Rev Fr. Joseph Stevenson, O. S. B.

Abbot Boniface permitted him to join the Atchison community in 1885. He was ordained June 22, 1889, and two years later was sent to the International College of the Benedictine Order at Rome. After three years of study at San Anselmo he received his degree of Doctor of Theology, and remained in Rome one more year specializing in Philosophy. After his return to Atchison, he was professor of Sacred Theology for the next fifteen years, also rector of the scholasticate and later Prior of the Abbey. For ten years he was pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church at Seneca, Kansas. In 1922 he joined St. Peter's Abbey where he was professor of Dogmatic Theology for many years. Abbot Michael appointed him Subprior of the Abbey in 1922, a position which he held until his death. From November 30, 1922 to January 1934 he edited the St. Peter's Bote. He observed his golden jubilee of his profession on November 28, 1934, and of his priesthood on June 29, 1939. A slight stroke in 1945 curtailed his activities, but he recovered sufficiently to be able to say Holy Mass almost to the end of his life. He died at the age of 83 at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, September 11, 1946, and was buried in St. Peter's Abbey cemetery September 14, following Solemn Requiem services conducted by Prior Peter in the absence of Abbot Severin.

Father Joseph Wickel was born at Siegen, Westphalia, Germany, May 6, 1877 receiving the name Robert in baptism. As a young man he emigrated to Canada and was received as a novice by Prior Alfred November 30, 1905. As Frater Joseph he pronounced his vows January 15, 1907, and was raised to the priesthood by Bishop Pascal September 17, 1911 at St. Peter's Church, Muenster. He offered his first Solemn Mass in Sacred Heart Church, Watson, October 1, 1911, the feast of the Holy Rosary. He was appointed assistant to Father Bernard at Watson and both attended the missions of Englefeld, St. Oswald, St. Gregor

Fr. Joseph Wickel, O. S. B.

Spalding, Jansen, and for a time also Carmel. When the new church at Engelfeld was completed in 1912, Father Joseph was given charge of the parish becoming first resident pastor next year. After a visit to Germany in 1922, he was appointed pastor of St. Anne's Church, Annaheim, which he administered until his death. Probably no other parish made such large contributions to alleviate the suffering of the poor, especially the poor children of Germany after both World Wars, being inspired to such deeds of mercy by their revered pastor. On September 13, 1936 he had the happiness to celebrate the silver jubilee of his priesthood. The eleven years of Father Joseph's life after his silver jubilee were full of suffering. Two years before, in 1934, he felt the first signs of sickness. Visits to several physicians in Saskatoon, Humboldt and Rochester, brought only temporary relief. But he kept on praying and working, assisted on Sundays and holy days by a priest from the Abbey. On Maunday Thursday and Easter Sunday 1947, he conducted the services, but in his weakened condition, contracted a severe cold and had to be taken to St. Elizabeth's Hospital on April 14. There, despite the best of care, he passed

away peacefully on April 25. Father Joseph was well prepared for death. A month before, on the occasion of his nameday, he wrote to a confrere "The patron of the little ones, St. Joseph, and myself are good friends. . He must help me safely across into eternity." He loved the children and was filled with joy on the occasion of his last nameday, when the children of his parish presented him with a rich spiritual bouquet. Since his parishioners wished to have a last look at their beloved Pastor the body was taken to Annaheim then to Muenster, where, on April 28 after a solemn Pontifical Requiem by Abbot Severin in St Peter's Church his body was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery.

Fr. Aurelius Rader, O. S. B.

The next priest to die was Father Aurelius Rader He was born at St Leo, Minn., September 30, 1893, and baptized Peter After completing his classical course at St. John's University he joined St. John's Abbey making his vows July 11, 1919 On May 5. 1920 he volunteered to go to Canada He was ordained June 3. 1923, by Bishop Busch of St. Cloud, Minn., at St. John's Abbey and sang his first solemn High Mass at St. Leo, Minn Shortly after his return to Saskatchewan he was appointed chaplain of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Humboldt and the following year he became temporary pastor at Muenster. In 1927 he was transferred to St. Benedict's Parish and St Leo's Mission near Cudworth. After the townsite of St Benedict had been laid out on the new C.P.R Humboldt to Prince Albert line, he organized the mission of St Andrew and served it from St Benedict. A severe blow struck him and St Benedict's Parish on April 24, 1943, Holy Saturday, when the church was completely destroyed by fire of unknown origin. Without delay the pastor and parish began to contruct a new basement church which was completed that summer While Father Aurelius was hearing confessions in this basement church on March 24, 1948, the day before Maunday Thursday, he became seriously ill. In spite of almost impossible roads due to deep snow and bitter cold, he was conveyed to St. Michael's Hospital, Cudworth, where the doctor diagnosed double pneumonia complicated by an enlarged heart Death relieved him of his sufferings on April 6 Father Abbot flew to Cudworth by plane to visit him, since the deep snow prevented train service He was assisted during his illness by Fathers Edward and Lawrence who were both stationed in Cudworth at the time. One of his sisters, Sister Edna, O.S.B., of St. Benedict's Convent, St. Joseph, Minn., was present at his death and funeral The body was taken to Muenster by plane, for the Pontifical Requiem Services by Abbot Severin and burial in the Abbey cemetery, April 10, 1948

Death took two members of the Abbey in 1950, Fathers Dominic Hofmann on January 27 and the venerable nonagenarian Father Lawrence Stenkogler on June 30

Gustav Hofmann was born at Geufeld, Bavaria, February 14, 1874 He came to St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., in 1889 at the request of Abbot Alexius Edelbrock, O.S.B., who recruited young men from Europe for the wide field of labor in America The young man entered the novitiate in 1892 receiving the name Dominic. He made his profession July 11, 1893, and was ordained to the priesthood June 21, 1897 The following year he was assigned as assistant priest to the Assumption Parish of St. Paul, Minn. He accompanied Prior Alfred to Canada in January 1903, when the two

Fr. Dominic Hofmann, O. S. B.

penetrated into the Colony as far as Dead Moose Lake where they almost froze to death. He came again on July 22, 1903, to join St. Peter's Priory on a temporary basis, but was so urgently needed in the new field that permission to stay was extended, and in 1920 he transferred his vows permanently to St. Peter's Abbey. His first charge in Saskatchewan was the parish of St. Ann, Annaheim, where he offered the first Holy Mass on the feast of St. Ann, July 26, 1903 in the home of Adam Specht. One of Father Dominic's brothers, Father Martin Hofmann, O.S.B., joined the Abbey of Mount Angel in Oregon, and celebrated his first Solemn High Mass in Annaheim, July 2, 1911. In 1918, after 15 years at Annaheim, Father Dominic was appointed pastor of [illegible] Parish, Watson, and began preparations for the construction of a basement church there. Before he could carry out his plans he was transferred to St. Augustine's Parish, Humboldt, in 1920, where he celebrated his [illegible] sacerdotal jubilee on August 8, 1920.

Father Dominic had the appearance of a robust man, though he actually was much troubled by illness. On July 23, 1943 he had the happiness of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of his profession as a Benedictine among his confreres after the annual retreat. His ailments increased during the last years of his life to such an extent that a Father from the Abbey had to assist him regularly every Sunday and holyday in the parish work. His eyesight also began to fail. In January 1947 he fell down the steps leading to the basement of the church, injuring himself so severely that the janitor, Mr. Blanch, had to carry him back to the house. He never fully recovered from the fall. Abbot Severin obtained the privilege of saying Holy Mass in the house for him, but often he was unable to avail himself of it. When he celebrated the golden jubilee of his priesthood on June 29, 1947, he needed assistance to the altar erected in the open on the west side of the separate school. The devotion shown the aged pastor by his parish on this occassion filled him with joy. About 1600 persons attended his last solemn High Mass, his last public function. After this golden jubilee celebration Father Dominic's strength declined rapidly and he was confined to bed most of the time. The end came on the morning of January 27, 1950, within a month of his 76th birthday. He was fully conscious to the end, and was able to receive Holy Viaticum at the hands of Father Aloysius fifteen minutes before he died. A solemn Requiem Mass was offered in St. Augustine's Church on January 30 by Father Aloysius. The business places in the town of Humboldt were closed. From Humboldt the body was taken to Muenster, where after pontifical services in St. Peter's Church conducted by Abbot Severin, interment was made in the Abbey [illegible].

Father Lawrence Steinkogler was born at Ebensee, Austria, June 1, 1858, and baptized John. As a youth he came to the United States and began his higher studies at St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, where he was invested with the Benedictine habit and received the name Lawrence. On May 3, 1882 he was professed and on December 19, 1885, was ordained a priest by Bishop Rupert Seidenbusch O. S. B., the Vicar Apostolic of Northern Minnesota. After many years in pastoral work at Melrose, Thief River Falls, Georgetown, West Union and other places in Minnesota, he volunteered for Canada in 1912, where he took over the parish of Fulda and the mission of Willmont, replacing Father Ildephonse Molitor, O.S.B., who returned to Minnesota on account of poor health. In 1918 he superintended the building of a beautiful church at Willmont and merited the praise from Abbot

Fr. Lawrence Steinkogler, O.S.B.

Peter Engel, "Happy the priest who builds a church and does not incur debts." On May 3, 1932 he celebrated his golden jubilee of profession. On that day he celebrated Mass in his parish, then motored to Muenster where at a Pontifical Mass celebrated by Abbot Severin he renewed his vows. In 1935 he celebrated his golden jubilee of the priesthood In company with Mr Alfred Duerr of Fulda he went by auto to Mayhew Lake, Minn., where on September 10. he celebrated a solemn High Mass at which Abbot Alcuin preached On the 6th, the feast of the Holy Rosary, he observed his golden jubilee in the parish of Fulda, and on the 13th at St John's Church, both of which he had served for the preceding twenty three years. At this time Father Lawrence was seventy-seven years of age still hale and hearty, but soon after old age began to make itself felt, and in 1937 he was given assistance in the person of Father Luke Boeckmann, O.S.B., and later, Father Constantine Thelen, O.S.B In August 1940 Father Lawrence, now 83 years old, resigned, and became chaplain of St Michael's Hospital, Cudworth. This was an ideal spot for the kind old man who had always shown kindness and consideration to the sick. Here he celebrated his diamond jubilee of the priesthood, September 16. 1945. He was led in procession into the church and said a low Mass, at which Abbot Severin preached and congratulated Father Lawrence, who had been privileged to offer up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass so many times in the past 60 years. The good Lord granted him five more years after his jubilee, but feebleness confined him to his bed for much of the time. He received excellent care from the hospital staff and Miss Mary Bachel who had been his housekeeper for thirty-six years. Father Edward attended him regularly and was present when the end came on June 30. 1950, at the age of ninety two years and one month His body was brought to Muenster After a Pontifical Requiem by Father Abbot it was laid to rest in the Abbey cemetery July 3, 1950

Distinguished Guests

Among the distinguished visitors to St. Peter's Abbey-Nullius were two Apostolic Delegates to Canada, and his successor, Archbishop Ildebrando Antoniutti, in 1927, 1935, 1939, and in 1951, as has been mentioned already.

Other noted prelates included His Eminence Rodrigue Cardinal Villeneuve, O. M. I., formerly Bishop of Gravelbourg, Sask., in January 1932, after he had been appointed Archbishop of Quebec, and His Eminence James Charles, Cardinal McGuigan, former Archbishop of Regina and later of Toronto; Archbishop of Sherbrooke, Archbishop Philip Peter J. Monahan of Regina, Bishop Gerald Murray of Saskatoon, later Archbishop of Winnipeg, Bishop Joseph Prud'homme of Prince Albert, Bishop Joseph Guy of Gravelbourg, Archbishop Michael C. O'Neill of Regina, Archbishop Arthur Beliveau of St. Boniface, Man., Archbishop Georges Cabana, Coadjutor Archbishop of St. Boniface and now Archbishop of Sherbrooke, Archbisop Philip Pocock of Winnipeg, Bishop Maurice Baudoux of St. Paul Alta., now Coadjutor Archbishop of St. Boniface, Bishop Joseph Lemieux, O.P., of Gravelbourg, Bishop Reginald Duprat, O.P., of Prince Albert, Bishop Francis P. Carroll of Calgary, Bishop Ovido Charlebois of Le Pas, Manitoba, Bishop John T. MacNally, first bishop of the diocese of Calgary, Bishop Budka, Bishop Roborecki, Bishop Klein, Bishop Joseph Busch of St. Cloud, Bishop Pascal O. M. I. of Prince Albert, was not mentioned here because he was so intimately connected with the founding of the Colony, and such a frequent visitor he seemed almost a member of the monastic family.

The Right Rev. Hildebrand de Hemptinne, O. S. B., appointed by Pope Leo XIII as first Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Order, visited Muenster October 17 to 19, 1910. He died August 13, 1913 and his successor, Abbot Fidelis de Stotzingen visited St. Peter's Abbey in 1926. After his death the Right Rev. Bernard Kaelin, Abbot of Muri-Gries, Switzerland, was elected to succeed him, and visited the Colony in the fall of 1949.

About twenty other Abbots visited St. Peter's Abbey. The first of these were Abbot Peter Engel of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota and Abbot Innocent Wolf, Abbot of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas. They arrived on November 16, 1906 to conduct the canonical visitation. Abbot Alcuin Deutsch, Abbot Peter's successor at St. John's Abbey, was a frequent visitor. Abbot Ernest Helmstetter of St. Mary's Abbey, Newark, New Jersey, as President of the American Cassinese Congregation visited St. Peter's several times and presided at the election of Abbot Michael and Abbot Severin. When Abbot Michael was blessed, October 28, 1919, the assistant Abbots were Abbot Oswald Baran, St. Martin's Abbey, Olympia, Washington, and Abbot Bernard Menges of St. Bernard's Abbey, St. Bernard, Alabama. In May 1929 Archabbot Aurelius Stehle of St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, accompanied Abbot Ernest to conduct the visitation. Abbot Justus Wirth of St. Bede's Abbey, Peru, Illinois, was one of Abbot Severin's assistants at his Abbatial Blessing, May 4, 1927. Abbot Vincent Huber, Abbot Justus' predecessor at St. Bede's Abbey, visited St. Peter's twice, in 1917 as retreat master and again as Visitator in 1923. On this last visit he celebrated a Pontifical High Mass in St. Peter's Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday, May 20. As official Visitators of the American Cassinese Congregation a number of other Abbots visited St. Peter's, including Abbot Martin Veth of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, and Abbot Charles Mohr of St. Leo's Abbey, Florida, Abbot Mark Braun of St. Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee, Oklahoma, Abbot Vincent T[illegible]or, Abbot Ordinary of Maryhelp Abbey-Nullius, of Belmont, North Carolina, Abbot Cuthbert Goeb of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota, Abbot Lawrence Vohs of St. Bede's Abbey, Peru, Illinois, and Abbot Cuthbert McDonald, of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas.

Rt. Rev. Bernard Kosin, O.S.B., Abbot Primate of Benedictine Order

Rt. Rev. A. Pascal, O. M. I.

Abbot Alcuin Deutsch, O.S.B.

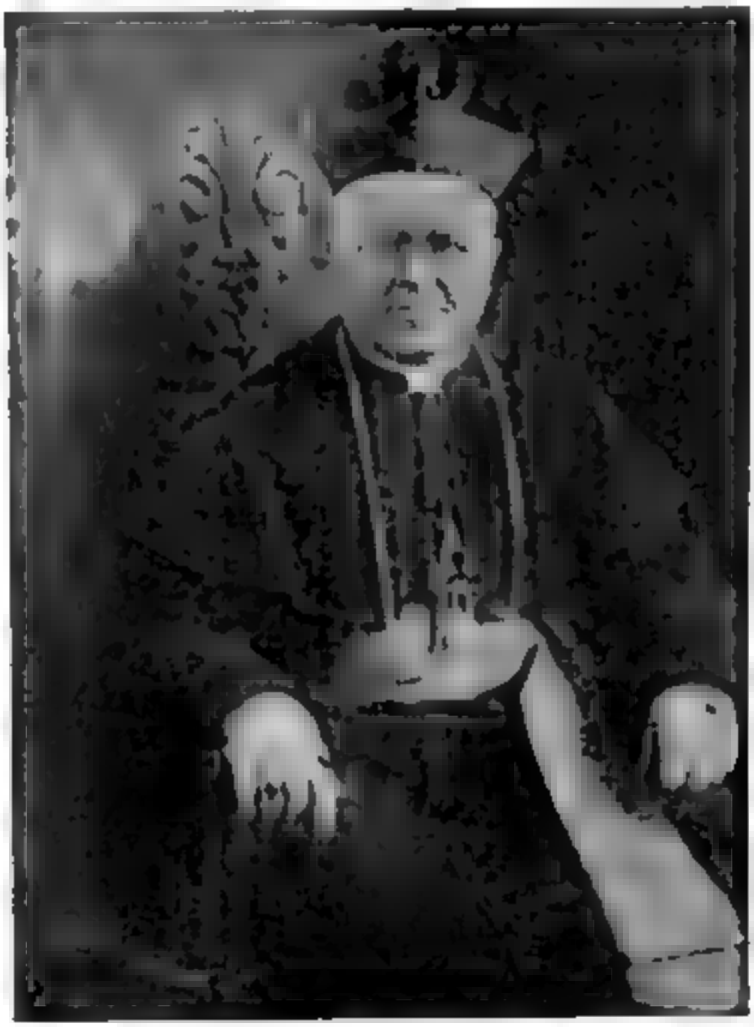
Abbot Lambert Burton of St. Martin's Abbey, Olympia, Washington. Abbot Ignatius Conrad of the Abbey of Subiaco, Spillerville, Arkansas. Abbot Thomas Aquinas Meier of Mt. Angel Abbey, Oregon.

After the Second World War Father Peter Klotz, O.S.B., a member of St. Peter's Abbey, Salzburg, Austria, visited the Colony and collected over $3000 for the sufferers in Austria at the request of Cardinal Pfiel of Vienna. In 1922 he was chosen Abbot of his monastery, but resigned in 1931. Father Baldwin Dworschak conducted the annual retreat in 1945, and was elected Abbot of St. John's, on December 28, 1950.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, accompanied by the Hon. Walter Scott, Premier of Saskatchewan and Dr. D. B. Neely, Member of Parliament for Humboldt paid St. Peter's Priory a short visit on July 25, 1910.

St. Peter's Abbey and its members have always been on the best of terms with the other religious orders and congregations laboring in the Canadian West. Franciscan Fathers have held retreats for the monks and the communities of Sisters in the Colony, and have preached missions in a number of the parishes. Abbot Bruno gave valuable counsel to the Oblate Fathers when they founded St. Joseph's Colony. The Oblate Fathers Laufer and Kowalski gave retreats to the monks of the priory in the early days and Fathers Hilland and Brabender preached missions in Annaheim and Lake Lenore in 1908. Oblates and Benedictines worked together in the Volksverein, and the names of Fathers Funke, Kierdorf, Hilland, Schwebius, Schweers, Munwegen, Handzik, Bieler, Hoening, Meier, Schultz, Schaler, Boekenfoehr, Steuer, Ueberberg, Hermandung, and others will long be remembered. Redemptorist Fathers from Saskatoon and Edmonton have conducted the retreats for the students of St. Peter's College for many years. They have also preached missions in many of the parishes. Father Blank of the Society of Jesus delivered an outstanding sermon at the Katholikentag at Bruno, July 1922. The Basilian Fathers conducting St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan often visit the Abbey. The secular clergy of all the dioceses of Saskatchewan, like the religious communities, have ever shown a friendly spirit to St. Peter's Abbey and its members.

Archbishop Oliver Elzear Mathieu, first bishop and archbishop of Regina



Cardinal James Charles McGuigan, second Archbishop of Regina, now Cardinal Archbishop of Toronto, Ont.

Bishop Vincent Wehrle, O.S.B., first Abbot of North Dakota, first Bishop of Bismarck, N.D.

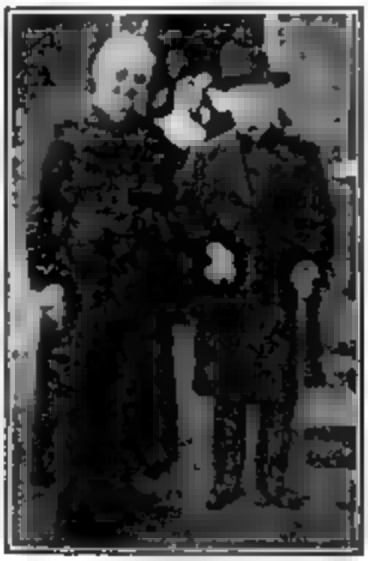
Bishop Gerald C. Murray, C.Ss.R., first Bishop of Saskatoon, later Archbishop of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Bishop Philip C. Pocock, second Bishop of Saskatoon, present Archbishop of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Bishop Francis J. Klein, present Bishop of Saskatoon.

Archbishop Peter Joseph Monahan, third Archbishop of Regina

Bishop M. Joseph Lemieux, O. P., fourth Bishop of Gravelbourg.



Cardinal Villeneuve, O. M. I., and Father Wm. Brunck, O.M.I. at Orphanage, Prince Albert

Bishop Joseph Henri Prud'homme, second Bishop of Prince Albert and Saskatoon.

Bishop L. J. Arthur Melanson, second Bishop of Gravelbourg, later Archbishop of Moncton, N.B.

Bishop Reginald Duprat, O.F., third Bishop of Prince Albert.

The Most Rev. Leo Stolz, S.D., Bishop of Prince Albert.

Archbishop Michael Curnelius O'Neill, present Archbishop of Regina

The Most Rev. Alma Desmeu, D.D., Bishop of Sauveterre

Archbishop Maurice Baudoux, Coadjutor Archbishop of St. Boniface, first Saskatchewan Priest consecrated Bishop, former parishioner and pastor of Prud'homme, Sask., and Bishop of St. Paul, Alberta

Aid from the U. S. Abbeys

From the very beginning Divine Providence came to the aid of the small Benedictine community in a signal way. So much assistance came from the members of St. John's Abbey that they can be considered co-founders of the community. Father Bruno Doerfler, a monk of St. John's Abbey, selected the territory for the Colony in the summer and the fall of 1902. Another monk of St. John's, Father Alfred Mayer was appointed by Pope Leo XIII to head the Cluny Priory, and it was he who led the small community to Saskatchewan. Still another member of St. John's, Father Meinrad Seiferman, joined the first group bound for Canada and founded the first parish of the Colony. Fathers Casimir Cismowski, Dominic Hofmann, Ildephonse Moitor, came from St. John's in the early years. When Father Ildephonse returned to Minnesota because of illness, St. John's Abbey replaced him by Father Lawrence Steinkogler in 1912. Father Hugo Tell replaced Father Dominic during the latter's illness, and superintended the erection of the frame church at Annaheim. Father Fridolin Tembreull was permitted to join St. Peter's Abbey in 1919, at the time that another monk from St. John's Abbey, Father Michael Ott was elected second Abbot of St. Peter's. Fr. Matthew Michel, a cleric from St. John's, arrived at Muenster in July 1917 while Fr. Marcellus Mayer arrived from there in September 1919. Neither was ordained at the time, but had completed a large part of their studies at St. John's. Seven other young men who had completed their clerical course at St. John's University came to Canada. Fathers Cosmas Krumpelmann, Paul Koehne, John Hable, Francis Lohmer, Leonard Benning, Stephen Mohorko and Luke Boeckmann. Another monk of St. John's Father Andrew Straub superintended the building of the College in 1920 and 1921. Another monk of the same Abbey Father Bruno Schmidt, took charge of St. Boniface's Parish, Leofeld, from 1939 to 1942 following the death of Father Fridolin.

The following monks of St. John's Abbey conducted annual retreats for the Fathers at Muenster. Fathers George Scheffold, Joseph Kreuter, Virgil Michel, Rembert Bularzik, Basil Stegmann, Coelestine Kapsner, Method Porwoll, Pascal Botz, Roger Schoenboechler, Odo Zimmermann, Alexander Korte and Elmer Eisenschenk. Fathers Cosmas Dahlheimer, Burkhard Arnheiter and Athanasius Fuchs were loaned as professors and prefects. Other Fathers from St. John's Abbey showed their intense interest in the Colony and the Abbey by paying visits, including Fathers Ludger Ehrens, Vincent Schiffrer, Gregory Steil, Clement Dumfl, Maurus Ferdinand, Charles Cannon, Ansgar Osendorf, Otto Weissner, Raymond Basel, Innocent Gertken, Norbert Gertken, Antony Roncilenfitsch, Paul Neussendorfer, Hilary Doerfler, David Yuergen, Hyacinth Cismowski, Constantine Thelen, and Walter Reger. Fathers Conrad Glatzmeier and Prior Herman Bergman inspected the Colony selected in 1902. Prior Herman visited it twice more in later years. The present Abbot, who was a member of St. John's Abbey at the time of his election visited the Colony twice. St. John's Abbey generously showed tremendous interest in St. Peter's [illegible] the past fifty years, and God alone [illegible] for all the aid given.

Other Abbeys also contributed to the welfare of St. Peter's Abbey. St. Anselm's Abbey at Manchester, New Hampshire, though only a Priory at the time, permitted Father Chrysostom Hoffmann to join St. Peter's Abbey in 1903. Father Chrysostom had completed his theological studies but had not yet been ordained. Bishop Trobec ordained him on July 1, 1903 and he arrived at the little monastery in Saskatchewan on August 2, 1903. During the course of the fifty years he has probably done more pioneer missionary work than any other Father. St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, aided by sending Fathers Ignatius

Groll, William Heen and Peter Fischer From St Bede's Abbey, Peru, Illinois, came Father Richard Gregoire, who did pastoral work in the Colony and in Meacham, Saskatoon and Prince Albert between the years 1927 and 1929 Father Andrew Koldbeck of St. Mary's Assumption Abbey, Richardton North Dakota, conducted the Fathers annual retreat in 1937, preached the German sermons at the pilgrimage on Mt Carmel, and conducted the retreat for the Ursuline Sisters at Bruno. Father Otho Sullivan of St Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, and Father Gabriel Germann of St. Bernard's Abbey, St Bernard Alabama, assisted St. Peter's Abbey from 1939 to 1941 and 1940 to 1941 respectively Father Jerome Gassner, a member of the Abbey of Seitenstetten, Austria, conducted two annual retreats for the Fathers of St. Peter's Abbey, in 1939 and 1940, and a retreat for the housekeepers of the parishes Father Gallus Sherman, another Benedictine from Austria, (Innsbruck, did pastoral work for over three years after the death of Father Casimir From 1942 to 1946 St Peter's Abbey gave shelter to Brother Norbert Hasenmueller, O.S.B., a monk of the Abbey of St Felizitas at Muensterschwarzach, Bavaria, Germany This Brother had been stationed at one of the Abbey's foundations in England, and at the outbreak of the Second World War was interned as an enemy alien. He was sent to a concentration camp in Eastern Canada from which he was released to St Peter's Abbey through the mediation of Abbot Severin Brother Norbert was very useful in the printing office of St Peter's Press. In 1946 he was permitted to go to Newton, New Jersey, where the Benedictine Missionaries of the St Ottilien Congregation had founded a new monastery From 1926 to 1928 Brother John Peter of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota, lent his assistance to St Peter's Abbey

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I love thy plains, Saskatchewan,
Thy valleys and thy hills;
Fore'er thy beauty lures me on,
My heart thy freedom thrills.

I love thy sky, Saskatchewan,
All solemn in the night,
Thy rosy banner flung at dawn,
And floods of daytime light

I love thy sons, Saskatchewan,
Those men to thee so true
Courageous men of will and brawn,
Deep-souled as thy sky is blue.

—*Jules Mainil*

New Laborers for the Harvest

Almighty God can bestow no greater favor upon his children than to call them to the priesthood or to the religious state, and not a few [illegible] men and young ladies of the Colony have thus been called by God. In 1911 the Franciscan Sisters of St Elizabeth began their foundation with three Sisters and by 1953 their number has increased to over one hundred. The Ursuline Sisters at Bruno began with three Sisters in 1914 and they now number close to one hundred.

When Abbot Severin was elected third Abbot of St. Peter's Abbey in 1927 there were only two Fathers whose parents were settlers in St Peter's Colony These were Father Theodore Doepker of Annaheim and Father Wilfrid Hergott of Bruno Four other young men had already joined the monastery but were not yet ordained. These were Fr Aloysius Herriges, Engelfeld, Fr. Gregory Gasser, Humboldt, Fr. Augustine Nenzel, Muenster, and Fr Alphonse Ludwig, Bruno Father Aloysius was ordained June 29, 1928, and the other three on June 29, 1932. Nine other young men of St. Peter's Colony have become Benedictine priests since 1927 Fathers Norbert Schwinghammer, Bruno, ordained June 10, 1935, William Gehlen, Lake Lenore, June 6, 1937, Philip Loehr, Muenster, May 30. 1942, Jerome Weber, Muenster, June 8, 1941, Alfred Engele, Carmel, June 4, 1944, Florian Renneberg, Leofeld, June 4, 1944, Roman Schneider, St. Benedict, June 15, 1947, Leo Hinz, Muenster, June 3, 1950, and Leander Dosch, Annaheim, June 3, 1950. Father Edward Benning, a brother of Fathers Leonard and Xavier, came from Arcadia, Wisc., and made his classical studies at St Peter's College He was ordained June 3, 1936. Father George Brodner and his brother Father Martin Brodner were born at Dysart, Saskatchewan, and completed their classical course at St. Peter's College. Father George was ordained on May 30, 1942 and Father Martin on November 14, 1943. Father Albert Ruetz came from Gull Lake, Sask., made his classical studies at St Peter's College, and was ordained June 5, 1949 Father Vincent Morrison came from Regina. studied at St. Peter's College and was ordained December 20. 1952 Father James Grey from Muenster is at present at St. John's Abbey, and was ordained deacon June 7, 1952. He, as well as all the Fathers beginning with Father Norbert made their philosophical and theological studies at St John's Abbey. Four other young clerics, members of St Peter's Abbey are at St. John's preparing for the priesthood. They are Fr Werner Renneberg from Leofeld, a brother of Father Florian. Fr Daniel Gerwing and Fr. Anselm Gerwing, brothers. from Lake Lenore, and Fr Joseph Ackerman from Regina.

St. Peter's Parish

A brief history of St. Boniface's Parish at Leofeld has already been given in its place as the first parish of the Colony to be organized. The second parish to be established was St. Peter's at Muenster by Prior Alfred. On May 21, 1903, he said Mass on the S.W. ¼ Sec. 18, Township 37, R[illegible] W[illegible] of the 2nd Meridian. It was the feast of the Ascension and to commemorate this event, Mr. Berthold Imhoff painted a beautiful picture of the Lord's Ascension on the ceiling of St. Peter's Church in 1919.

Until November 1921 St. Peter's Abbey and St. Peter's Parish were so closely connected that the history of the one is really the history of the other. Though his responsibilities as superior of the small community often necessitated his absence from Muenster, Father Alfred was pastor of St. Peter's Parish until Father Bruno was elected Prior in April 1906. Prior Bruno followed the example of his predecessor and remained in charge of the parish until 1917 when he appointed Father Chrysostom subprior of the monastery and pastor of the parish. Father Leo who had been subprior before this was transferred to Bruno. Prior Bruno had become Abbot in August 1911, but retained the administration of the parish and took special [illegible] in the parish school. He would ordinarily say Mass for the school children on week days and preach during the High Mass on Sundays. At a parish meeting, August 8, 1911, at which he presided, it was decided to build a new school. The building was to have a full basement constructed of concrete and the walls were to be of interlocking tile. There were to be two large class rooms on the first floor and enough room above for several boarders. It was to be joined to the Sisters residence. The next day the parishioners began to haul stones for the purpose and the building was completed in October 1917. During the winter of 1916 to 1917 classes were conducted in the basement.

Under the pastorate of Father C[illegible] the entire church was decorated by Mr. Berthold Imhoff. The sanctuary with its eighty life-sized figures was a personal gift of Mr. Imhoff to Abbot Bruno. For decorating the body of the church Mr. Imhoff asked $3000. A collection taken for that purpose by Father Chrysostom amounted to $2600. The decorative work of Mr. Imhoff is really unique and is considered among the finest in Canada. He succeeded in giving the picture of St. Paul above the first pillar on the epistle side of the church the features of his friend Abbot Bruno. The beautiful stations of the Cross were a generous gift of St. John's Abbey to Abbot Bruno shortly before his death.

In November 1921 the community of St. Peter's Abbey moved from the old Abbey buildings north of Muenster to their new location south east of the town. Father Peter was appointed pastor of St. Peter's Church and Vicar General of the Abbey. Nullus. and Father Fridolin became Prior and Procurator. Father Peter and Mr. August Wassermann constructed two confessionals in the back of the church, building them into the walls of the tower. In 1922 the old altar was replaced by a new one costing $2200 and Holy Mass was celebrated on it for the first time on April 2. The Munich Art Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which designed the altar donated a baptismal font of the same material and matching the altar in design. The discarded altar had quite a history of its own. It was originally in St. Joseph's Church (Benedictine) Chicago, Illinois, and was donated to the Cluny Priory, probably in 1892, where it served as the high altar in the chapel. When the community moved to Saskatchewan the altar was included with their goods. The bell of the chapel at Mt. Carmel also has a historical background. The Ecker family of Humboldt brought it from Alberta and donated it to St. Peter's Church. Father Peter mounted it alongside the log church at Muenster in 1903 and there it served to call the monks and parishioners to the services until a larger bell was purchased in the fall of 1910. The new bell was blessed by Prior Bruno on November 27, 1910, and hoisted to the belfry of the church next day. As was previously

stated, the present frame church was built by August Wasserman and Theodore Fleskes, members of the parish, in 1909 and 1910. The solemn entry took place on July 10, 1910 and Bishop Pascal blessed it on October 2, 1910. On both occassions Father Peter sang the solemn High Mass, Prior Bruno preaching on the first occasion, and Bishop Pascal on the second.

As pastor of St. Peter's Church, Father Peter was a busy man. He had the care of the parish, was in charge of the parochial school, and was both editor and manager of the St. Peter's Bote. His task was considerably lightened in November 1922 when the printing establishment was moved to the site of the new building and Father Subprior Joseph Sittenauer took over the editorship. This comparative ease did not last long, for he was recalled to the Abbey in September 1924, and again appointed Prior by Abbot Michael.

Father Aurelius succeeded Father Peter as pastor and was transferred to St. Benedict in July 1927, being succeeded by Father Leo Ogdowski who remained there until August 1931. During his administration Mr. Wasserman built the two side altars in the same style as the main altar, and they harmonize beautifully with the style and decoration of the church. On May 24, 1931 the parish celebrated Father Leo's silver jubilee of the priesthood. Like most of the other major parishes of the Colony, the parish of Muenster considered the parochial school the most suitable educational institution for their children. Since a parochial school was supported only by voluntary contributions there were difficulties financing it, and during Father Leo's pastorate it was changed into a public school, the Ursuline Sisters remaining as teachers.

For the next sixteen years, August 1931 to July 1947, Father Marcellus was pastor. He did much to beautify the church grounds by planting a spruce grove around the church and designing a symmetrical approach. Electric lights were installed in church. In October 1939 he received St. Gregory's Church, St. Gregor, as a mission, and a Father from the College assisted him Sundays and Holydays. He celebrated his silver jubilee as priest in Muenster on July 15, 1945, and in St. Gregor on August 5, 1945, Abbot Severin preaching on both occasions. Because of impaired health Father Marcellus was transferred to Engelfeld in July 1947. Until his departure the former monastery served as rectory, the parish paying a nominal sum annually, but in the course of the years it had deteriorated and so was razed in 1948. The pastor now resides at the College.

Father Gregory succeeded Father Marcellus and Father Alfred Engele became his assistant. In 1951 Father Gregory installed a Wurlitzer Reed Electric Organ, at a cost of $3500. During 1948 and 1949 the parish cemetery was landscaped and a small marble tombstone placed at the head of each grave. In 1951 the graves in the cemetary numbered 240. In 1952 a public address system was installed in the church.

The following Fathers celebrated their first solemn High Masses, at Muenster during the course of the past fifty years: Father John Badtey, July 12, 1903, Father Casimir, June 14, 1906, Father Clovis Moller, a secular priest from the diocese of Prince Albert, April 5, 1910, Father Cosmas, January 13, 1924, Father Augustine, the first priest of Muenster parish, July 3, 1932, Father Jerome June 22, 1941 Father Philip, May 31, 1942, Father Leo Hinz June 4, 1950.

The following are a few statistics of the parish. The number of parishioners is about 700. In 1951 over 16,000 Communions were distributed. Five of its sons have joined the Order of St. Benedict, Fathers Augustine, Philip, Jerome, Leo and James Gray. Another Father Francis Lenz became an Oblate Father, and Father William Kroetsch whose parents resided at Muenster for a time and left in 1924, became a Redemptorist. Father Gerald Biwer, O.F.M., and Father Robert L. Maney, are also sons of St. Peter's Parish.

At least twenty young ladies of the parish joined various convents: Sister Maura Bergermann, O.S.B., Sister Alacoque Mayer, O.S.B., Sister Demetria Nenzel, C.S.J. Sister Carmelita Nenzel, C.S.J., Sister Mary Clare Nenzel, S.A., Sister Ambrose Nenzel, O.S.U., Sister Cyprian Gemeinwieser, C.S.J., Sister Basil Vogelsang, C.S.J., Sister Alexis Zietz, S.A., Sister Loyola Wassermann, O.S.U., Sister Augustina Koett, O.S.U., Sister Thoma Bernhard, O.S.U. Sister Therese Moench, O.S.U. Sister Magdalen Weber, O.S.U., Sister Juliana Weber, O.S.U., Sister Catherina Haensgen, O.S.B. Sister Gabriel Washkowski, O.S.B., Sister Herbert

Wiegers, Sister Mary Louise Pape, O.S.U., and Sister Scholastica Twardick, O.S.E.

Father Peter administered the first baptism in the parish on July 11, 1903 to Maria Theresia Groppe, the daughter of Joseph Groppe, whose homestead was on Sec. 22, T. 37 R. 21. The mother died on August 2, 1903. The child was baptized in a tent upon which the sun beat so strongly that the heat within was almost unbearable. Mr. Frank Boehm was sponsor. The first marriage contracted was that of Anton Eimer, an employee of the Priory and Anna Lutz, September 21, 1903, in the log church. (Mr. Eimer later moved to British Columbia. For many years he supplied Regina with Christmas trees from his land.) The first High Mass at Muenster was celebrated by Father Chrysostom August 20, 1903, in a tent, with Fathers Peter, John, and Casimir as choir. The first solemn High Mass celebrated at Muenster was on the feast of St. Scholastica, February 10, 1904, by Father Peter with Fathers Rudolph and Chrysostom as deacon and subdeacon.

THE OLD SETTLERS

Now two score years and ten have passed,
Since stalwart men from distant climes,
Came west to test a fertile soil,
To plan a home on rolling plain.

* * *

The frontier days were none of ease,
Of carefree hours or pleasant dreams,
For test and trial of varied kind,
Met settler at each doubtful turn.

* * *

The prairie bleak that ne'er had felt
Ought else than thund'ring hoof,
Or stealthy step of slinking beast,
Soon quivered 'neath the busy plow.

* * *

The spring, soon after wintry blasts
Had spent their biting sting,
Brought wakened life in field and dale,
And roused the sinking hopes again.

* * *

That year — it passed, and freshened hope
Urged calloused hands to hurry on
In building homes for loved ones,
Who soon arrived to help along.

* * *

Their efforts joined, now they could work
To found a home to call their own,
To forge ahead, with foresight keen,
That now we see was not in vain.

* * *

The silvered hair on furrowed brow,
Recall the days when settlers new
Laid shoulder to a worthy task,
That from above has well been blessed. J. H.

St. Benedict Parish, St. Joe Mission
Medicine Lake and Wolf Creek

Church of St. Benedict, or St. Benedict, destroyed by fire.

The third place selected for divine worship in St Peter's Colony was St. Benedict It was attended by Father Meinrad from Leofeld. On January 11 903, Prior Alfred and Father Bruno celebrated Masses on the S. W ¼ Sec. 21, T 41, R 25, in a building erected by Anthony Hoeschen for the German American Land Co., in the fall of 1903. for the convenience of the settlers who were to arrive in the proposed Colony In a letter dated two weeks after his arrival at Leofeld. Father Meinrad stated that he intended to say Holy Mass in St Benedict, 12 miles north of Leofeld, where Fathers Alfred and Bruno had been The building mentioned was later moved to the northwest quarter of the same section and became St Benedict's Church The adjacent stable was converted into living quarters for the priest, and both buildings served this purpose until the new St Benedict's Church was erected on Sec. 18, T 41, R 24 The parish was thus founded by Father Meinrad as a mission of Leofeld. Toward the beginning of 1907 Father Leo Ojdowski was appointed pastor of Leofeld, and like Father Meinrad attended St Benedict regularly Seven months later, July 1907, Prior Bruno decided to raise St Benedict's Mission to a parish and give it a resident priest, to care for a mission west of it, St. Leo's Mission Father Leo was appointed first pastor and on October 13, 1907, took up his residence at St Benedict The country around St. Benedict's parish was called the Hoodoo district, and that around St Leo. St Meinrad district, in honor of the first pastor. St Leo's Mission comprised about forty families and homesteaders. They immediately began the building of a church and by April 26, 1908, it was sufficiently completed to have Mass in it. The Bantle Brothers did the carpenter work on the church, and were aided by the whole congregation. As soon as the church was finished a school was opened with John Mederwach as teacher. Joseph Bantle was the first organist and the choir consisted of the Kurtenbach and the Bantle families Bishop Pascal blessed St. Leo's Church June 7, 1910. and confirmed the children of St. Benedict's parish and St. Leo's Mission in August 1916 That year Father George Scheftold preached a mission at St Leo's

Mail service to St Benedict was inaugurated on April 1, 1904. Joseph Hanacek was the first carrier, and the first mail arrived from Leofeld on April 2 George Brown was the St Benedict's first postmaster

In March 1909 Father Leo was recalled to the monastery and Father Benedict Stengenberger was appointed to replace him. During his pastorate the parish was moved to the east and the old church was replaced by a new one on Sec 18, T 41, R. 24, and a parish house was erected beside the church Bishop Pascal blessed the church on the feast of the Ascension, May 21, 1914 On that occasion Father Malanewski of Prince Albert sang the solemn High Mass, with Fathers Matthias and Benedict as deacon and subdeacon and Abbot Bruno and Father Philip Funke, O.M.I., were present in the sanctuary After the High Mass Bishop Pascal preached, praising the congregation for their zeal in erecting such a beautiful church and rectory, confirmed 35 children, and in the afternoon blessed the two new bells giving them the names of Benedictus and Maria

Father Benedict guided the parish for six years and regularly visited St Leo's mission. In March 1915 he was transferred to St Augustine's Church Humboldt, and Father Rudolph Palm succeeded him

Father Rudolph was also in charge of both places. During his tenure till the middle of August 1924 he succeeded in wiping out most of the debts, though he had to make many sacrifices to keep the parochial schools operating. The churches in both places were decorated by Mr Berthold Imhoff St Leo's church was enlarged and in St Benedict's church he had a pipe organ installed the only one of its kind in St Peter's Colony. After nine years of labor he was appointed pastor of St Anthony's Church, Lake Lenore, and Father Bernard Schaeffler succeeded him

Immediately after his arrival in 1924 Father Bernard captivated the hearts of the young men by organizing a brass band. When Abbot Michael came to confirm the young parishioners of St Benedict and St Leo. May 23, 1926, about 90 children he was met several miles from St. Benedict by about 40 horsemen, and at the church the band rendered several selections. During the confirmation Abbot Michael was assisted by Fathers Bernard

Present Church of St. Leo

Present Church of St. Leo

Frdolin, Casimir and Leonard Father Bernard remained only three years in St Benedict, till July 1927, when he was appointed pastor of St Bruno's parish, Bruno, and Father Aurelius Rader ordained four years previously, became pastor

Father Aurelius was pastor of St Benedict for 2. years and of the mission for 18 years, St Leo's being assigned to Cudworth in 1945 Father Aurelius remained at St Benedict until his death in 1948, just two months short of his twenty fifth anniversary of ordination. On April 24, 1943. he and his parishioners received a rude shock; from some unknown cause the church caught fire on Holy Saturday afternoon and was totaly destroyed The parish hall was used as the place of worship for a time, and the parish decided to build a basement church costing $9000. 40 feet wide and 80 feet long The insurance realized from the fire amounted to $6500 and about $800 were collected from the parishioners. Work began immediately, and by the middle of August 1943 the excavation was completed, and before winter the building was under roof and ready for divine service

In 1929 the Canadian Pacific Railway Company built a new railway line from Lan Humboldt to Prince Albert, and opened passenger service September 30, 1930. Along this line new towns sprang up, Fulda. a few miles east of Fulda church: Pilger, five miles west of St. Bernard's Church, Middle Lake, and St Benedict, a few miles north east of St Benedict's Church. In these towns new churches were erected: St. Andrews in St. Benedict Canadian Martyrs in Middle Lake, Holy Trinity in Pilger, and a little winter chapel at Fulda. Mass was celebrated for the first time in Middle Lake by Father John pastor of Assumption Parish, Marysburg and St Bernard's Church, (old Pilger) during the summer of 1936. A frame church was erected in 1937 and blessed by Prior Peter, September 26. 1937 Before this services were held in the school. In Pilger town services were held the first time, Nov 30, 1947 by Fr John in a machine shed A large chapel was built in Nov 1948. and used for divine services the first time Dec. 8. 1948. Holy Trinity is in the territory of St. Bernard's of which Father John is pastor, though Father Philip has Mass in the chapel on his visits to Middle Lake

The exact date of the first Mass in the town of St Benedict could not be ascertained, but it is certain that the little frame church was erected in 1930. It was built on railway property. but since Father Aurelius and the Company could not come to an agreeable understanding, the parish purchased ten acres of land outside the townsite from Mr Clement Peters, and in 1932 the church was moved An announcement in St. Peter's Bote dated October 1. 1931 said that Holy Mass was to be celebrated at St Andrew's mission on October 4 at 8.30 A. M., and thereafter on every second Sunday following. In the same announcement Father Aurelius indicated that at the mission of St Leo he would celebrate Holy Mass on October 11, 1931 at 10:00 A. M and thereafter at the same time every second Sunday following At the parish of St Benedict he would have two High Masses and two low Masses every month. This schedule was maintained until September 1, 1945 when St Leo's Mission was put in charge of Father Edward who attended it as pastor of Cudworth. Under Father Edward's administration a new frame church was erected at St. Leo's Mission in 1947 and blessed by Prior Peter in September.

June 16, 1938, the feast of Corpus Christi. was a day of joy for the parish of St. Benedict, for Father Francis A. Demong, O.M.I., a son of the parish, celebrated his first solemn High Mass. He was assisted by Fathers Aurelius. as assistant priest. Rudolph, as deacon and Norbert, as subdeacon Father Henry Krawitz, O. M. I., preached in German and Father Wilfrid Hergott, O. S B in English. Father Demong had made his preliminary studies at St Peter's College before joining the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Another day of joy was July 2, 1947, the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin. when Father Roman Schneider, O.S B., had his first solemn High Mass there. Father Demong assisted as deacon, Father Florian Renneberg, a son of the neighboring parish of Leofeld, as subdeacon, Father Aurelius was assistant priest, and and Abbot Severin, preached. Father Roman had made his classical studies at St Peter's College and his philosophical and theological studies at St John's Abbey and was ordained on June 15, 1947 by Bishop Bartholome of St. Cloud

A third son of St Benedict's parish, (St Leo's Mission), Francis Kolla, who also made his pre-

Church of The Canadian Martyrs at Middle Lake

St. Maurus Church, Dana

liminary studies at St Peter's College, is at present a seminarian. His parents formerly resided near St. Leo, but moved to Saskatoon, and [illegible] been accepted as a candidate for the secular clergy of the diocese of Saskatoon. The following young ladies, whose parents have their homes in St Benedict's Parish and St Leo's Mission have joined various communities: Sister Caromida Meder [illegible] O.S.B. Sister Mary [illegible] ters of St Martha (Antigonish [illegible] Kolia, O.S.U., Sister Ignatia Billesberger, O.S.U.

While hearing confessions in the basement Church at St Benedict March 24 1948, the da before Maunday Thursday Father Aurelius was taken seriously ill He was taken to the hospital at Cudworth, where he died April 6. After the death of Father Aurelius, Father George had temporary charge of the parish, and during this time the parish house in St Benedict town St Andrew's mission was built. When Father Alphonse, later in t year, was transferred from Carmel to St Benedict he took up his residence in the new house Later the parish house at the old St Benedict was sold to Mr Theodore Bergermann, who moved it to Wakaw

Father Alphonse had founded the mission of **Canadian Martyrs** at Middle Lake, and took care of it until 1939 In September of that year he was [illegible]red to Carmel and Father Luke replaced him at Middle Lake In 1942 Father William Gehles was put in charge until he was replaced by Father Philip Loehr in the fall of 1947

[illegible]nate list of the pioneers of St [illegible], who were still living at the time of the silver jubilee of St Peter's Colony in 1928 follows. Fred Bader Theo Peters Sr., Hubert Dre[illegible]chs. Andrew and A P Hessdorfer, Geo. Billesberger, Anthony and Joseph Hackl. **Andrew Schumann**, Anthony. Frank and Jos Reinhart, Fred Hetzel. Martin Baron, Mich. Lovardy, George Martinka, Bernard Fne, Frank Kugler, Henry Gruending, A. J Krol, Fred Demong, Chas. Rueppel. A. Schneider, Otto Seuffert. Chas. Richardson, Mich Mueller, Stephen Siba, M Isinger, Otto Fuerstenberg. Jos. Weber, Jos. Bonath, Jno. Zink os. O Bryan, Peter Kohn Sr Pioneers that were still living within the boundaries of St. Leo's Mission in 1928 included: Joseph Bantle, John, Anthony and Ferdinand Kurtenbach, Peter Thil, Henry Roth, Albert Ziegenhagen, Fr. **Reding**, Wm Thiemen, Henry Schmitz, Fritz Dierker, John Medernach, Jos. Paul, Louis Dierker, Jos. Medernach, Fr. Paul, Jos Lepitzki, Andrew Yusik, Klemuth, **John Hubnick, Henry Bentle.**

Present church of St. Benedict

St. Michael's Parish, Cudworth

and St. Maurus' Mission, Dana

St. Michael's Parish, Cudworth, is located where the first settlers of St. Peter's Colony entered the fifty townships which now form the Abbey Nullius of St. Peter. Father Meinrad Seifermann, O.S.B., celebrated the first Holy Mass only a short distance south east of the present town on May 17, 1903. The location is now marked by a wooden cross on the southwest quarter of Sec. 32, Township 40 Range 26, about 40 miles southeast of Rosthern. Three or four shacks gave shelter to the settlers and in one of them Fred Imhoff had opened a restaurant. Here, in a most primitive chapel, Father Meinrad conducted services, while the Imhoff family and Mr. Wm. Benz constituted the choir for High Masses. The location was not central to the new settlement and Father Meinrad decided to locate on the southwest quarter of section 14, Township 40, Range 26, about seven miles to the south east. Here he took up homestead and called the little hamlet, Leofeld, the original location retaining the name Old Leofeld for a time.

In 1911 the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway constructed a new line from Prince Albert through the western part of the Colony and then the town

Church of St. Michael & Rectory at Cudworth.

of Cudworth was born, a short distance from Old Leofeld. The name of the town perpetuates the memory of Ralph Cudworth, a distinguished English philosopher who was a strong opponent of the atheistic tendencies of the sixteenth century. The new town attracted many of the farmers from Leofeld and the neighboring districts. Most of the business men were Catholics and felt the need of a church in town, so Father Matthias acceded to their request and celebrated Mass in the public school of the town on December 8, 1912 for the first time. About 100 persons were present at this first service and thereafter he visited Cudworth at least once a month. In March 1914 Messrs. Frank Green, Jacob Eull and Anthony M. Casper were elected trustees of the mission, and approved by Bishop Pascal. This arrangement of monthly service continued for about seven years, during which time the town continued to grow. Everyone felt that a church and resident pastor were urgently needed; permission to build a church was given and by September 1920 it was completed and blessed by Abbot Michael. The Archangel Michael was chosen as the patron of the church. Many of the parishioners had come from St. Michael's in Minnesota. They and Abbot Michael, whose patron had been selected, felt particularly honored. On the day of the blessing Father Joseph Wickel celebrated the solemn High Mass with Fathers Casimir and Marcellus as deacon and subdeacon. Abbot Michael and Father Bernard preached. After Mass Abbot Michael confirmed seven children and one adult. The Cudworth choir sang for the services which closed with the Te Deum. At this time there were about 25 families in the parish — 125 persons. Father Fridolin was named pastor of Leofeld on May 3, 1923, and also had charge of St. Michael's Mission. This arrangement lasted until the end of September 1924, when Father Casimir became the resident pastor of Cudworth.

In 1920 a member of the congregation donated a 700 lb. bell which was blessed by Abbot Michael, on May 8, 1921 and given the name St. John. Before the blessing Abbot Michael explained the ceremonies of the blessing and the function of of the bell at divine services. This bell did not last very long. It cracked in 1928 and could not be rung for Christmas that year. It was replaced in 1929 by two bells which Abbot Severin blessed on July 28, 1929 giving them the names of St. Michael and Maria.

The first wedding solemnized in the new church at Cudworth took place on November 23 1920, when at a High Mass celebrated by Father Matthias, Vincent Ronnellenfitsch of St. Benedict, a brother of two Benedictine priests, Fathers Anthony and Victor, both of St. John's Abbey, became the husband of Catherine Schinker-Mueller of Cudworth. The bride had been received into the Catholic Church on November 3, 1920. A news report sent to the St. Peter's Bote at the beginning of 1923 stated that the trustees Messrs. Frank Wunderlich, Jacob Eull and A. M. Casper, who had held this position almost from the beginning were re-elected. It likewise stated that $1000 of the debt had been paid off during 1922, and that the remaining debt was about $1000. The altar society did very good work, and contributed about $400 to the church. Mrs. Regina Wunderlich was President of the society and Miss Lizzie Schmidt secretary treasurer. The congregation consisted of 35 families about 165 parishioners.

At the invitation of Father Fridolin the Volksverein held its Third Annual District Katholikentag at Cudworth, July 8 and 9, 1924. Abbot Michael celebrated a Pontifical High Mass, at which Fathers Peter, Fridolin, Matthew, Joseph Sittenauer, Charles Cannon, O.S.B., a visitor from St. John's Abbey, and Fratres Wilfrid and Francis were ministers. Other priests of the Colony present at the occasion were Fathers Matthias, Rudolph Aurelius and Ignatius. Father Peter preached the sermon, but was obliged to cut it short because of rain. the altar was erected outside. On the second day he celebrated a solemn Requiem High Mass for the deceased pioneers of the Colony. The Anaheim and St. Benedict bands were present and the Cudworth choir sang. In the afternoon the bands led the assembled visitors through the town in a grand parade and in the evening the Anaheim band gave a short concert in the town hall.

Father Casimir became resident pastor in September 1924, and soon the parish house was built. Encouraged by Father Casimir, the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Humboldt undertook the management of the Dr. Longault's hospital, on December 1, 1924, and Abbot Michael blessed the building on December 14. Patients arriving in large

numbers from Cudworth, Wakaw, Dana and Prud'homme, facilities were not sufficient to accomodate them, so it was decided to erect a larger building. In May 1926 Father Casimir and Mr. Anthony Stadelmann of Engelfeld, the contractor, selected the site for the new building on the south western fringe of the town. Excavation began on June 16, 1926, and on December 12, 1926 the hospital was formally opened. It was solemnly blessed on May 29, 1927 by Abbot Severin, three weeks after he had been blessed as Abbot. That morning Father Casimir celebrated High Mass in St Michael's church and Father Abbot preached in German and English. After services the ladies of the parish served a banquet in the town hall, at which the following spoke: Fathers Casimir and Bernard, Messers Wiebe, mayor of Cudworth Frank Wunderlich, trustees of the church, Burger principal of the school and Dr J. A. McDonald the resident physician. Father Abbot also had words of praise for the splendid cooperation the people had shown in building the hospital. After the program in the hall the entire assembly together with about 160 school children went to the hospital for the blessing. In 1929 the hospital reported that the building satisfied all the requirements of a small country hospital. It was equipped with a steam heating plant, electric lights, its own water system, a large operating room, an X-ray machine and all necessary appurtenances. It had sufficient room for 25 patients and the Sisters residing there. During the year it cared for 529 patients of whom 407 were discharged as cured, 134 operations were performed by Drs. Generoux and Kershaw, and 93 persons were X-rayed. For the past eleven years Dr Jerome Schropp has been the resident Doctor at Cudworth, and these figures are considerably increased.

St. Michael's Hospital observed its silver jubilee on June 1, 1952. Prior Peter celebrated a solemn High Mass in St. Michael's Church and preached the sermon. In the afternoon Father Prior blessed a beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin donated by Dr Schropp, and erected on the hospital grounds. A program followed, consisting of songs by Collette and Ritz Kohle, Ella Lange and Mrs Johnson. Father Florian briefly reviewed the work of the Sisters of St Elizabeth in Cudworth from the time the first sod was turned on June 16, 1926 to June 1952. A Nurses Residence was erected close to the hospital in 1950.

Because of the growth of the town of Cudworth and its Catholic population the church was enlarged and renovated under the supervision of Father Casimir during the summer of 1930. On September 21, the church was again opened for services. Since it was practically a new church Abbot Severin blessed it on October 19, 1930. That morning seven boys and seven girls made their first holy communion and in the afternoon Father Abbot confirmed 15 boys and 13 girls.

Father Casimir celebrated his silver jubilee on June 10, 1931. Father Abbot presided in the sanctuary, and almost all the Fathers of St. Peter's Colony attended. A number of priests from outside the Colony came to rejoice with Father Casimir. At 10:00 A. M., Father Casimir sang a solemn High Mass, assisted by Fathers Leo and Hyacinth his brother, deacon and subdeacon. Father Abbot preached in English and Father Peter in German. After the services the ladies of the parish served a banquet at which Abbot Severin, James Hogan Hy Therres, Dr J. H. Uhrich and Father Richard spoke. Presentations and congratulatory addresses were given by the mayor of Cudworth, the president of the board of trade, the principal of the school and by various societies of the parish. The Bruno band under the direction of Father Bernard contributed much to the enjoyment of the occasion.

Father Casimir also had charge of St. Maurus Mission at Dana. Being of Polish descent he could speak the language spoken by many parishioners. St. Maurus' mission was begun by Father Chrysostom who celebrated Mass there for the first time on January 20, 1906. It was a High Mass and was celebrated in Fred Imhoff's store. The choir from Leofeld was present, and since it was Saturday, Father Meinrad was also able to attend. Father Chrysostom announced that day that henceforth services would be held there twice a month. Up to the present this arrangement had been continued. The church was built in 1907, and was ready for services on June 24, a solemn High Mass celebrated by Father Chrysostom with Fathers Leo and Matthias as deacon and subdeacon. The church

is a frame building 24 x 36 feet, with a 10 x 12 addition to serve as sacristy. That same year a 350 lbs. bell was ordered and mounted in the belfry. Bishop Pascal visited Dana July 3, 1910, and confirmed 12. Prior Bruno sang the High Mass and Fathers Chrysostom and Casimir assisted the Bishop who preached in French and English for confirmation. Father Chrysostom was in charge of St. Maurus' Mission until the summer of 1918 when Father Leo, pastor of Bruno, visited the mission until Father Casimir was appointed.

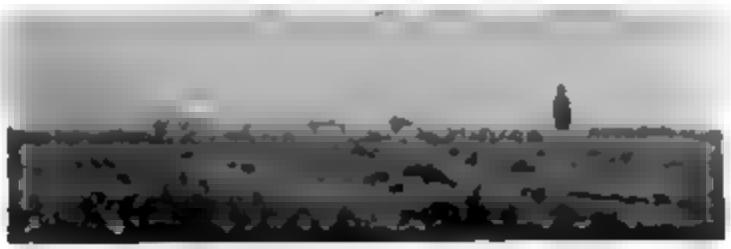
Father Casimir died rather suddenly, July 11 1940. After his death Father Paul Kuehne had temporary charge of Cudworth and Dana until August 1940, when Father Gaius Scherman, O. S. B., from Innsbruck, Austria, was appointed pastor. When he went to the United States, September 12, 1943, Father Edward succeeded him. On September 1 1945, Father Edward was relieved of the Mission at Dana and given charge of St. Leo's Mission instead.

In August 1940 Father Lawrence, former pastor of St. Joseph's Church at Fulda was appointed chaplain of St. Michael's Hospital. He held this position until his death, June 30, 1950, at the age of 92 years. Here he had the rare happiness of celebrating his diamond jubilee of the priesthood September 16, 1945. The venerable jubilarian wanted to sing a High Mass, but his physician dissuaded him. Instead he said a low Mass, again using the words "I will go unto the altar of God unto God, who giveth joy to my youth," which he said more than 24000 times during the sixty years of his priesthood. Abbot Severin preached the festive sermon, Fathers Xavier and Edward attended the jubilarian, and Prior Peter officiated at the solemn Benediction which followed. Three little girls, dressed in white, Charlotte Wunderlich, Norma Waldbillig and Shirley Wiebe acted as brides, and one of them recited a poem recalling the dignity of the priest, and the joy and thanksgiving inherent to the occasion.

St. Michael's Parish celebrated its silver jubilee on September 24, 1949. Prior Peter celebrated the High Mass and preached the festive sermon, mentioning some of the principal historical events of the parish.

There is another Catholic Church in Cud[illegible] belonging to the Ruthenian, Greek Rite. Abbot Severin blessed the corner stone for this church according to the Latin rite on August 15 1928, assisted by Fathers Casimir and Matthew. Then the corner stone was blessed according to the Greek rite by Father P. Aleksiw, assisted by Fathers E. Drohomiretzky and Androwich. The church was completed the same year, so that Father E. Drohomiretzky was able to hold services in it for [illegible]mas, which according to the Ruthenian Ca[illegible] was celebrated on January 7, 1929. The present pastor is Father C. Lotocky and his assistant is Father J. Obamanyk.

Before concluding this sketch of Cudworth, Leofeld and Dana we must mention the Mission established by Father Luke, in 1947. It is the Mission of the Holy Family, a frame building erected on the SE ¼ Sec. 1, T. 40, R. 25, about equally distant from Bruno, Wilmont, St. Benedict and Leofeld. The church was blessed by Prior Peter on August 3, 1947. On September 4, 1949 Abbot Severin visited the little congregation and conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on 17 boys and 10 girls. In his sermon Father Abbot dwelt on the necessity of religious instruction and the importance of prayer in the family, especially the daily family Rosary. In the afternoon of the same day Abbot Severin confirmed 23 boys and 12 girls at St. Boniface's Church, Leofeld. There also he counseled the parishioners to remain faithful to the daily Rosary. Father Luke was appointed chaplain of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Humboldt in September 1952 and Father Matthew succeeded him as pastor of Leofeld and Holy Family Mission.



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St. Joseph's Parish, Fulda

St. John's Mission, Willmont

Prior Alfred can be considered the founder of the third parish, St. Joseph's at Fulda. The name Fulda is derived from the old high German word Fultaha meaning water-land. A famous Abbey founded in 744 by Abbot Sturmius the disciple of St. Boniface, Apostle of Germany, was named Fulda and one of its celebrated Abbots was St. Rabanus Maurus, later Archbishop of Mainz. To commemorate this great Abbey, secularized in 1803 the name Fulda was given to the district in which St. Joseph's Parish was established.

Prior Alfred made many trips through the fifty townships assigned to him and his priests to study the situation. At that time there were no roads laid out geometrically as now. In the course of one of his journeys he said Mass in the log cabin of Mr. Wm. Kreuzenbeck, on the western shore of Dead Moose Lake, in the present parish of St. Joseph. This was on July 18, 1903. Father Peter said Mass there on July 26, 1903, and several times more before winter. Mr. Charles Hemmelgarn, a pioneer at Fulda, wrote the following, dated June 17, 1904:

I am a member of St. Joseph's Congregation which extends from the west shore of Dead Moose Lake. The parish was organized during the summer of 1903 and divine services were held every second Sunday for quite a while in the house of Mr. Kreuzenbeck. But since the house of Mr. Kreuzenbeck was too small to hold the faithful and since the settlers of the district were not yet in a position to erect a church, we were advised by Prior Alfred to attend services during the winter in the store of Mr. Godfrey Schaeffer, about 8 miles farther south. The settlers were quite satisfied with this arrangement, since they found it necessary to go to Mr. Schaeffer's store anyway to make purchases. Now, however, the winter is over, and since the settlers have increased in number, we have decided, with the consent of Prior Alfred to build a church on the site which had been designated for this purpose last summer. The new church is to be erected on the NE ¼ of Sec. 32, T. 38, R. 23. Even now the church is in the course of erection. It is to be 30 x 40, built of logs and is to have a roof of shingles. The trustees are Peter Schneider, Carl and John Stolz. There are 40 families and some bachelors living within a radius of three miles.

To complete Mr. Hemmelgarn's report, a brief reference may be made here to the former St. Bernard's Church which was located close to the present Dixon Siding, west of Humboldt. Father Chrysostom said Mass there for the first time on All Saints Day, 1903, in Mr. Schaeffer's Store on Sec. 28, T. 37, R. 23. From the summer of 1904 to the fall of 1905 Father Peter said Mass there every second Sunday, first in a tent and later in a little log church. While Mass was still being offered in the tent, Father Peter urged the people to complete the erection of the church, saying, "the priest can not very well wear mittens while saying Holy Mass." Mr. Schaeffer and Prior Alfred had hopes that a town would arise at the present site of Dixon, and that possibly the C.N.R. would build its roundhouse there. Their hopes were futile, Humboldt grew into an important center and the round house was placed there. When it was found necessary to organise a parish at Humboldt, St. Bernard's Mission died a natural death. The church was torn down, and the remaining debt on it was paid by the Priory. As partial reimbursement, the roof was moved to Muenster and used as a covering for the Priory machine shed.

The log church at Fulda was completed by August 1904, and Father Chrysostom said the first Mass in it. A large flat stone served as a pavement at the entrance of the church. The visiting priest stayed with a kind Irish couple. Father Ch[illegible]n had charge of the mission until 1905 when Father Ildephonse Molitor, O.S.B. was appointed first resident pastor, arriving on July 27, 1905. Since there was no parish house near the church he boarded at the Manning home.

Bishop Pascal blessed the church August [illegible], 1905, and conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 17 young members of the parish. Fathers Ildephonse, Dominic and Peter were present. Father Ildephonse, the bishop and Father Peter said Mass early in the morning, and in the absence of a server they served each other's Mass. At breakfast that morning the Bishop remarked "today an honor

First Church at Pekin.

First Parish House, Pekin

came to me for which even the angels in heaven might envy me. I had the honor to serve a priest's Mass." Father Dominic celebrated the High Mass. At dinner in his home Mr Manning used a poplar branch as a fan to keep the mosquitos away from the guests. The first parish house in Fulda was built in the fall of 1905 and Father Ildephonse was able to move into it during the first week of October.

The year 1905 brought another joyful feast to the parish when Father Ildephonse celebrated the silver jubilee of his priesthood on October 10. At 10:00 A.M. he sang a solemn High Mass with Fathers Dominic and Bruno Doerfler as deacon and subdeacon, Father Rudolph was master of ceremonies, and Prior Alfred preached. At the parish picnic which followed the Mass the sum of $158.00 was realized, a sizeable sum those days. The choir and brass band, composed chiefly of members of St. Peter's Priory attended, and helped to make the celebration memorable.

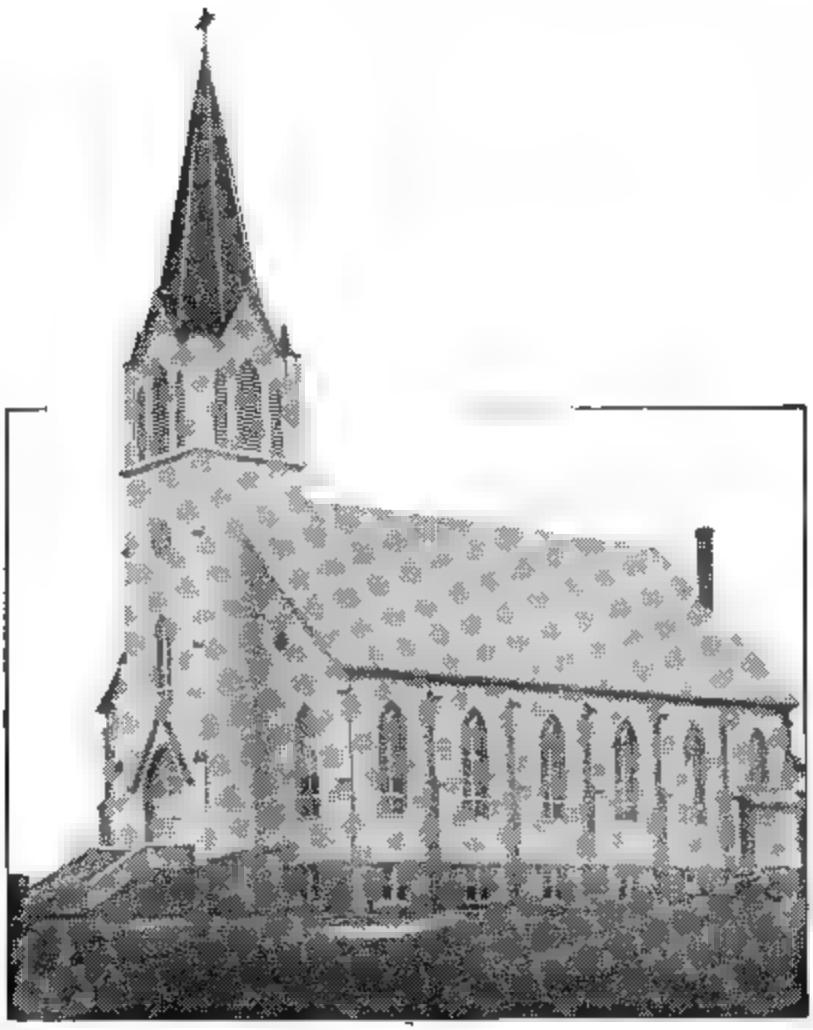
The log church was soon too small for the growing congregation, for no other parish in the Colony had as many young families as Fulda. In 1906 the parishioners began to erect a larger frame church. The plans were drawn by Beilmann and Sons, Milwaukee, and the contract was let to Arnoldy and Walerius of Leofeld. On December 5, 1906 the following report appeared in the St Peter's Bote: "November 25 will long be remembered by St. Joseph's Parish. On that day services were held for the first time in the new church and six boys and six girls received their first holy communion. It was a beautiful sunny day. At 10 o'clock Father Ildephonse and the first communicants marched in procession from the old church into the new one. Arriving at the foot of the altar the first communicants renewed their baptismal vows after which the choir sang an appropriate hymn. After High Mass all went back to the old church where dinner was served."

Bishop Pascal blessed the church June 4, 1907. On June 3 the bishop accompanied by Prior Bruno and Father Rudolph, arrived from Humboldt in a decorated carriage, preceded by a group of horsemen from the boundary of the parish to the church. After blessing the church, he celebrated a Pontifical High Mass with Prior Bruno and Father Dominic as deacon and subdeacon. Father Dominic preached and after the services the Bishop confirmed 19 parishioners. The ladies of the parish served dinner and supper in the parochial school which had also been erected under the supervision of Father Ildephonse.

On June 5 the Bishop and the clergy drove to St. John's Church, Willmont, where Bishop Pascal blessed the little log church which served as parochial school on week days. Prior Bruno celebrated a solemn High Mass with Fathers Dominic and Rudolph as deacon and subdeacon. Bishop Pascal expressed his joy at being able to bless another church in the Colony, and praised the people for supporting the parochial school.

Services in the Willmont district were first conducted by Father Chrysostom December 27, 1904, in the home of Mr. Hubert Rauw. As in St. Joseph's Church up to the arrival of Father Ildephonse, Mass was celebrated on week days, at which all the pioneers of the district were present as though it were Sunday. Great care was given the organization of the parochial schools. Under date of August 28, 1904, Father Chrysostomus reported in St. Peter's Bote: "It is proposed to conduct school during the fall in St. Joseph's Church, and Henry Kalthoff, who had taught school in the United States, has been selected as teacher." Parochial schools were organized at St. Joseph's Parish, St. John's Mission, St. Michael's Parish, St. Boniface Parish, and in other parishes and missions of the Colony.

The mission of Willmont — it was named after the town Willmont, Minn. — was placed under the patronage of St. John the Baptist in honor of St. John's Abbey. St. John the Baptist called himself "the voice of one crying in the wilderness; prepare the way of the Lord" (Matth. 3, 3). When Father Bruno Doerfler came to this district in the course of his inspection trip, September 23, 1902, he spent the night in the open, about three miles west of the Government Trail. In the seemingly endless wilderness, with no human being within miles, he too could have cried out, "I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness; prepare the way of the Lord."



Church of St. John Baptist, Willmont

Father Ildephonse attended the congregation of St. Joseph's Church and Willmont Mission regularly and faithfully until a serious ailment, which necessitated an operation, forced him to leave for Minnesota on August 16, 1912. The operation was successful, but it weakened him so much that he had to give up parochial work. In 1919 he enjoyed a visit to St. Peter's Colony. He celebrated his golden jubilee of the priesthood at St. John's Abbey, August 18, 1930, at which Father Dominic preached the jubilee sermon.

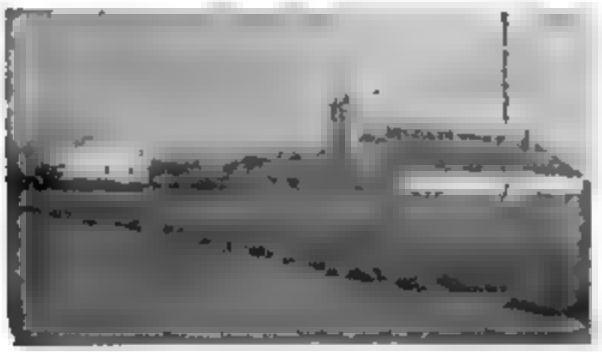
To replace Father Ildephonse, Abbot Peter Engel sent Father Lawrence Steinkogler, O.S.B. He arrived at Muenster on September 19, 1912, and next day Father Casimir conducted him to Fulda where he was to remain 28 years. In the last years he was assisted by Father Luke for three years and by Father Constantine Thelen, O.S.B., for a few months. He was 54 years of age when he arrived at Fulda, and left it at the age of 82. Besides his pastoral work he was Postmaster of Fulda for some time.

The first problem Father Lawrence and the congregation at Willmont had to solve was the erection of a new church to replace the old log building. In October 1915 plans for the new frame structure with full basement were completed by an architect, and work began in 1916. The St. Peter's Bote reported the following: "November 23 was a memorable day. On that day Father Lawrence held the last divine service in the old church, concluding with a short sermon. After the service the entry into the new church, that is, into the basement of the new church took place. John Rauw carried the statue of St. John, the patron saint of the church, the children carried the candlesticks and the flowers, the pastor carried the monstrance, chalice, ciborium and altar stone, while members of the congregation carried the confessional and other articles. From November 1, 1904 till November 23, 1916, 160 baptisms were administered, 16 marriages blessed, 16 persons interred, and 5,500 communions distributed. Is it not astonishing how many spiritual graces God attaches to a church, be it only a log church or a miserable board shack? The good Lord will from now on find a more worthy habitation at Willmont."

In late summer of 1918 three beautiful wood carved altars were set up in the church. The church was blessed by Abbot Michael on June 24, 1920, assisted by Father Lawrence and Father Dominic. Father Abbot celebrated a Pontifical High Mass after the blessing and Father Lawrence delivered the sermon. It was a rainy day and Father Lawrence, who was known for his originality and humor, chose for his text the words from the Acts of the Apostles, "John indeed baptized with water. . . ." (Acts 1, 5.). In spite of the unfavorable weather the church was filled. The Bruno choir sang for the Mass and Fathers Leo, Rudolph, and Casimir were present.

At Fulda Father Lawrence built a new parish house in 1924 of which he was justly proud. On June 7, 1937, as a result of a defective chimney, this house burned down, but most of the contents were saved. With the insurance and the help of his parishioners, a new house was built that same year.

On October 6, 1935, Father Lawrence celebrated his golden jubilee of the priesthood in Fulda, and on October 13, in Willmont. At St. Joseph's parish the jubilee Mass was celebrated outdoors the altar being erected on the east side of the church. Before Mass the trustees of the parish presented Father Lawrence with a new chalice and a golden vestment which Father Lawrence blessed just before the jubilee Mass. Gertrude Wegleitner, representing the school children, recited an address and presented a spiritual bouquet. Nina John Lostetkamp, Nora Buttinger and Christina Wegleitner, presented a golden crown and the host for the Mass on a silken cushion. Abbot Severin preached the jubilee sermon in German and stressed the fact that honors given to a priest are really shown to Christ, since the priest is Christ's representative. Prior Peter was assistant priest, Father Aloysius and Gregory were deacon and subdeacon. Fathers Dominic and Benedict assisted Father Abbot at the throne and Father Stephen was Master of ceremonies, and the choir of St. John's Church sang at the service. About twenty uniformed musicians under the direction of Mr. Hugh MacDonald, principal of the Humboldt Separate School, entertained the guests. During the afternoon many priests and others arrived to congratulate the jubilarian. This was the first golden sacerdotal jubilee celebrated in St. Peter's Colony. On October 13 at Willmont, the jubilarian was also presented with a gol



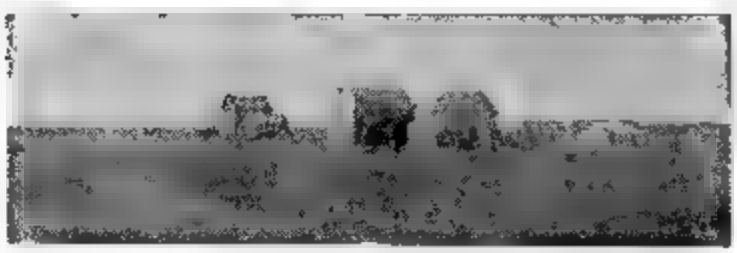
Present Church of St. Joseph and Rectory at Fields

Former Church of St. John Baptist, Willmont

den vestment. The assistants at the altar were the same as at Fulda and Prior Peter preached the sermon. The jubilee brides were Clara Lueke, Coelestina Krenn and Verna Lohmann. The St. Benedict band joined the choir at the Te Deum after the service, and played during the dinner served by the ladies of the parish in the basement of the church.

When Father Lawrence, at the age of 82 years, after having served Fulda and Wilmont for 28 years, withdrew from pastoral activity and became chaplain of the hospital at Cudworth, Father Abbot appointed Father Matthew, August 1940. During his administration, the frame church, built in 1906 and now too small for the congregation, was replaced with a larger basement church costing $1200. It satisfied the needs of the parish, and has the advantage of being easy to heat during the cold winter months.

Father Matthew remained at Fulda for three years, leaving September 1943, to become pastor again of Engelfeld, and Father Stephen succeeded him. Father Stephen celebrated his silver jubilee of the priesthood at Fulda on June 17, 1951, when he sang a Solemn High Mass with Fathers Wilfrid and Alfred as deacon and subdeacon. Father Abbot was present in the sanctuary attended by Father Paul and Father H. Bartley, C.Ss.R., of Saskatoon, who had opened a mission renewal in St. John's Church earlier that morning. The jubilarian was led in procession from the rectory to the church, where he was presented a cushion by little Diane Beuker, Joan Wourms and Elaine Bieringer. Diane recited a beautiful tribute to the priesthood. Father Abbot preached the jubilee sermon and Father Bartley added a few words in reference to the Mission Renewal scheduled at Fulda the following week. The jubilee celebration at St. John's Church took place on July 8, 1951. At the solemn High Mass the jubilarian was assisted by Fathers William and Albert as deacon and subdeacon. Father Abbot preached in German and English. The little flower girls in attendance were Marcella Frank, Marian Roettger and Lillian Mertz. Parish festivals were held on both occasions.



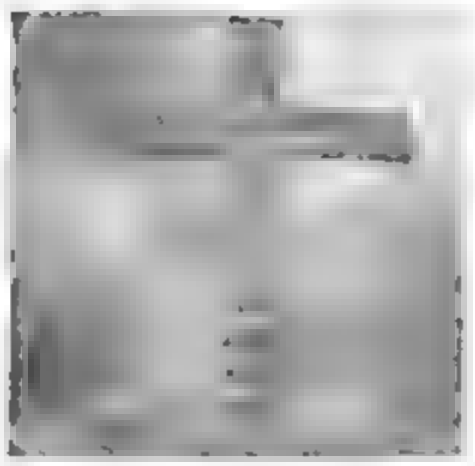
An early prairie homestead

First Church of the Assumption at Marrybrook

Early school at Marrybrook

Assumption Parish, Marysburg

and St Bernard Mission, Pilger



Cross erected one mile west of present Marysburg, site of first Mass.

The first services in Marysburg were held on Sunday, July 19, 1903, when Prior Alfred had the first Holy Mass in the dining room of Mr Lawrence Lindberg's house After the services a meeting was held and the following trustees were elected as the nucleus of the new parish August Moeller, John Kraus and Henry Brocklage. At the meeting it was resolved to build a log church on the northwest quarter of section 34, township 38 Since that quarter had not yet been taken up as homestead it was registered as such for Father Bruno Doerfler. and to desagnate the place as a homestead, Mr Kraus pushed a few poplar [illegible] into the ground and placed some tree branches as a sort of roof over them to give it the shape of a shady hut

Two weeks later, on August 12, Mass was again said at Lindbergh's home at 8:00 a. m. by Father Chrysostom Hoffmann, O S B., who arrived from the U S. a few days before and at 10:00 o'clock Father Bruno had another Mass with sermon. about 30 persons were present

The first settlers east of Dead Mouse L[illegible] were Lawrence and Charles Lindberg, John Kraus Henry Therres. August Moeller, Henry Brocklage, Henry Lessmeister, Peter Funk, Frank Massinger George Riederer, Caspar Feltus, Aloysius Frank, Michael Burton, John Mueller, Fred Distel. Nicholas Eschen, Henry and Joseph Weiland and others. Like nearly all the pioneers of St Peter s Colony they came chiefly from the U S., but were of German origin. Rosthern. 80 miles to the northwest, was their nearest railway station and they trekked this distance with horses and oxen and loaded wagons, or on foot

On August 8, 1903, the site of the cemetery was selected by Fr Peter and on the following day, a Sunday afternoon, the two year old daughter of Mr and Mrs. John Kraus was laid to rest. Her father made the coffin and her brother George dug the grave

Mass was said quite regularly every second Sunday, and a little log church, 16 x 32, was completed by Christmas, 1903, so that Holy Mass could be celebrated in it for the first time on that day It was not necessary to set up a crib because the church itself resembled the birthplace of Christ the Lord The Mass was said by Father Chrysostom who had been appointed the first pastor of the district. The expenses connected with the erection of the church amounted to $287 70; $250 being borrowed from Mr. Aloss Frank. The following year the church was too small, and was lengthened eight feet While hearing confessions the priest had to sit on a nail keg, until several chairs were donated in 1905

The first highmass with organ accompaniment was celebrated Nov 2. 1904. Mr F X Strueby having donated his organ and acting as first organist On his visits the priest stayed at Lindberg's house or tent, and slept in the tent or on the floor of the store. On Feb. 19 1905. Father Peter was appointed pastor As Father Bruno was not able to fulfill the duties of a homesteader Henry Bittman was granted the quarter section on which the church stood, the government ceded ten acres, and Mr Bittman donated 30 acres to the parish

A feast of the first order was Aug. 24, 1905 when Bishop Pascal blessed the log church. Father Dominic celebrated High Mass and Prior Alfred preached After Highmass the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 17

Second Church of Marysburg

Present Church of the Assumption at Marysburg.

members of the congregation, Mr John Kraus and Mrs. Agnes Lessmeister acting as sponsors. At the blessing of the church, the parish was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin under the title of her Assumption, one of the reasons apparently being the fact that Prior Alfred had been pastor of the Assumption Church at St. Paul, Minn. (In 1933, when the Holy See was asked to declare the bodily assumption of the Blessed Virgin a dogma of faith, no less than 4,710 signatures from the inhabitants of St Peter's Colony were added to the petition, 180 coming from the parish of the Assumption, and 121 from Pilger. (The Assumption of the B.V.M. was proclaimed an article of faith by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. on All Saints' Day, Nov. 1, 1950, a very appropriate day, since Mary is the Queen of all the Saints.)

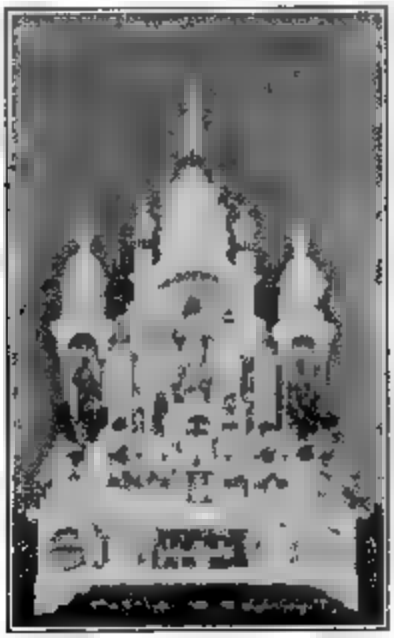
The first baptism in the parish was administered by Father Chrysostom to Caecilia Frockage on Sept. 20, 1903, and the first couple joined in the sacrament of Matrimony on June 13, 1904 were George Riederer and Catherine Frank. The first solemn Highmass was celebrated Dec. 8, 1905, by Father Peter, Father Leo, as deacon, gave his first sermon on this occasion, and Father Bernard was subdeacon.

On March 19, 1906, the feast of St. Joseph a parish meeting was held at which it was decided to build a church, 40 x 60, with a steeple 80 ft. high, at an estimated cost of $2,850. On April 1 the site was chosen and approved and work began immediately. Mr. John Kraus offered to do the mason work for the foundation free of charge and the contract was let to Messers. Arnoldy and Walerius of Leofeld. The building was sufficiently completed by July 1, 1906, so that Father Lambert Burton, O.S.B., a member of St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kans., and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burton, members of the parish, was able to celebrate his first solemn Highmass in it. At this solemn service, Father Peter was assistant priest, Fathers Dominic, and Casimir were deacon and subdeacon. Father Dominic preached and took for his text "Behold, we have left all things and have followed Thee, what therefore, shall we have?" (Matt. 19, 27). The speaker compared the priest with the good Shepherd willing to forsake the goods of this world, even his own parents, in order to follow Christ and lead souls to Heaven. During the same service twelve children of the parish made their first Holy Communion. Dinner was served by the ladies of the parish in the adjoining grove, and the brass band from Muenster abby entertained the visitors.

On the following July 3, Mr. F. J. Lange, the president of the Catholic Settlement Society, who played an important role in the founding of St. Peter's Colony, and later in the founding of St. Joseph's Colony, married Mary Lessmeister, Father Peter officiating.

On Oct. 22, 1906, the new 400 lb. bell arrived, a donation from a generous member of the parish. John Bittmann hauled it from Muenster to the Church with his oxen. The new church was blessed November 11, 1906 by Bishop Pascal, who was assisted at Mass by Prior Bruno and Father Leo. The bell was blessed after Mass and named "Maria Immaculata." In his sermon the Bishop praised the people for the spirit of sacrifice and devotedness to their faith. Next day the bell was hoisted into the tower. At the sound of the sweet voice of the bell a good lady remarked: "Now we are at home again." This bell called the faithful of Marysburg to the House of God, and was regularly rung at the time of the Angelus, morning, noon and evening by Mr. F. X. Strueby, until it was torn from its lofty height in the terrific storm of June 27, 1919, when the church was demolished. The bell remained intact and is still functioning in the present church.

Father Peter was replaced by Father Boniface Puth, O.S.B., on August 20, 1906, but only to the end of the year, when Father Bernard was placed in temporary charge. In April 1909 Father Boniface was again appointed and attended regularly till the beginning of 1913. His successor was Father Casimir who already on March 23, 1913, Easter Sunday, took steps to erect a parish house, and for that purpose had a building committee elected. The plan, however, was shelved until the year 1915 and instead a combination Sisters' and parish school house, 41 x 44, was decided upon. This building was erected during the summer and fall of 1914 and was named St. Angela School and Convent. It is still in use as a Sisters' house and school, but the name is now St. Henry's School. It served the Ursuline Nuns as their headquarters until the fall of 1919 when they established their Motherhouse at Bruno. The Ursulines opened St. Angela's School on Jan. 7, 1915, with Mother Clara and



Imposing altar at Marysburg

Interior of Assumption Church in 1940 — Redecorated since.

Sister Walburga as teachers. Father Casimir who until now had come from Muenster for services was now appointed resident pastor and the parish house was erected during the first half 1915.

The first mission in the Parish was preached by Father George Scheftoid, O.S.B., from July 26 to August 1, 1915. Other missions or retreats at intervals were given by Fathers Rosenthal, O.M.I. Fisher, C.Ss.R., Rembert, W. Wfrid, and Celestine.

Father Hyacinth, O.S.B., a brother of Father Casimir, celebrated his first Solemn High Mass June 22, 1916, the feast of Corpus Christi, in the presence of his parents and his sister, Sister Jerome O.S.B. Father Casimir was assistant priest. Father Severin Gertken, O.S.B., (now Abbot Severin), who was visiting the colony at the time, was deacon. Father Leo subdeacon, and Father Bernard delivered the sermon.

In 1919 Father Casimir and the parishioners realizing that their church was too small for the growing population, decided to add a new sanctuary and sacristy. Construction was proceeding rapidly and the roof was already on the new section but the windows were not yet in when on June 27, black clouds gathered in the west towards evening, and shortly after 10 p.m. a violent electrical storm, accompanied by hail hit the district. Suddenly the bell of the church gave a wailing sound which was heard by Fr. Casimir warning him that something unusual had happened. Stepping to the window he looked into the pitch dark night in the direction of the church; a flash of lightning lit up the place, but he saw no church. The following morning revealed the destruction; debris was strewn where the day before the church had stood.

The pioneers of the parish immediately made plans for the erection of a new church, one which should be more solid than the destroyed frame building. A substantial brick edifice was decided upon, and by the middle of July of the same year over $29,000 was subscribed, some parishioners promising to contribute $1,000 each. Work on the new church started the early part of 1920, and before winter set in the building was under roof. In the meantime services were held in the school building. By the middle of February 1921, the beautiful new church, which had more the appearance of a cathedral than a country church, was practically finished, except for the two towers which were completed the following summer.

The first services in the new church were held on May 29, 1921, the feast of Corpus Christi. Father Casimir, invited Father Peter, to have the honor of celebrating the first Highmass in the new church, and of carrying the Blessed Sacrament in the procession after Mass. In his sermon Father Peter alluded to the times when he held services in the log church, and congratulated the people of the parish on their magnificent spirit of sacrifice in erecting such a splendid edifice.

The dimensions of the church are as follows: 112 x 56, height from floor to ceiling, 36 feet. Height of the towers including the cross 71 ft. Seating capacity is about 500. A firm at Redcliffe, Alta., furnished the outside variegated brick, and the inside brick were supplied by the Bruno Interlocking Tile Co. The cost of the erection exceeded $30,000. In 1926 there was a debt of $26,400 which increased in depression years. Father John was able to announce on Christmas, 1945, that, thanks to a special debt-reducing drive the entire debt had been wiped out.

The blessing of the beautiful Assumption Church took place on August 15, 1921, the feast of the Assumption, the patronal feast of the parish, by Abbot Michael. Assisted by Fathers Hyacinth and Matthew, he celebrated Holy Mass at 9 a.m. during which five children made their first Holy Communion and 47 their Solemn Communion. At 10 a.m. he blessed the church and then Father Hyacinth, assisted by Fathers Joseph and Endolin, sang a solemn High Mass. Father Casimir directed the choir and Father Peter preached the sermon. Father Abbot addressed the congregation in German and English and had much praise for the pastor and his parishioners who brought such great sacrifices for the glory of God. Confirmation followed during which Mr. Henry Schulte and Mrs. George Rositch were sponsors.

The following day Mr. and Mrs. Cismowski, observed their golden wedding anniversary, at a Mass celebrated by Abbot Michael assisted by their two priest sons. In his address to the jubilarians, the abbot mentioned the fact that four of their children had dedicated their lives to God, two sons as priests and two daughters as nuns, one of

whom, Sr Hedwig, had died, and the other, Sr Jerome, was present In their declining years the couple kept house for Father Casimir

Other couples in the parish who lived long enough to observe their golden wedding anniversaries were Mr and Mrs Frank Haselhorst, on Nov 24, 1936, Mr and Mrs. Jos. Skalicky, on Sept 18, 1943, Mr and Mrs. Henry Schulte, on Jan. 8 1934, – also their diamond jubilee ten years later — Mr. and Mrs Henry Therres, on April 7, 1940 and their diamond jubilee in 1950

The imposing high altar was furnished by Messrs. Frank Berker and Jacob Schmitz of Milwaukee, Wis. and arrived in Sept 1921 The beautiful statue of the Assumption, donated by a good lady of the parish in 1907, had been safely stored before the storm which destroyed the frame church, and now was given a place in the new altar Two matching side altars from the same firm were set up in the church the following December

As in other localities of St Peter's C[illegible] the settlers at Dead Moose Lake were concerned about the proper education of their children, and both Prior Alfred and Prior Bruno insisted on a thorough Catholic education. With Henry Frank Robert Blume and Henry Frocklage as trustees, a parochial school was opened in the log church on May 8, 1905, and Mr F X Stroeby, who had some teaching experience in the U S. was the first teacher, giving his services practically gratis. A public school, called St Henry, had been erected a mile west This was changed into a parish school on Jan. 15, 1908, a unique case in the history of Saskatchewan. Miss Theresa Wiegers taught in this school until she joined the convent of Sion in Prince Albert as Sr Herberta The Ursulines began to teach on Jan. 7, 1915, in the building erected the year before and called it St. Angela School and the St. Angela Convent. This school remained in operation as a parochial school until March 19 1933, when it became a public school, resuming the name St Henry, though the Ursulines remained in charge

After having labored in the parish for nearly ten years, Father Casimir was called to Muenster as Prior and Procurator of the Abbey He left the parish on Nov 23, 1922, and Father Fridolin was named pastor but his stay was short, for on April 30, 1923, he became pastor of Leofeld and Cudworth Father Matthias was appointed in his place The unsavory name of Dead Moose Lake by which the post office was known till 1924 was changed mainly through his efforts into the appropriate name Marysburg During the last months of his life he suffered much from cancer of the stomach and died after an operation at Macklin, Sask., on June 27 1931

Father John, who had been in charge during Father Matthias' illness, now became pastor He has done much to further beautify this church especially with numerous paintings by the celebrated artist Berthold Imhoff and with a number of statues, particularly a fine wood carving of St Conrad by an artist in Italy Some of his activities and those of his parishioners are given in the booklet which he published in 1947 In it he states that from September 1903 to Oct., 1947 there were recorded 831 baptisms, 150 deaths, and 180 mar[illegible]

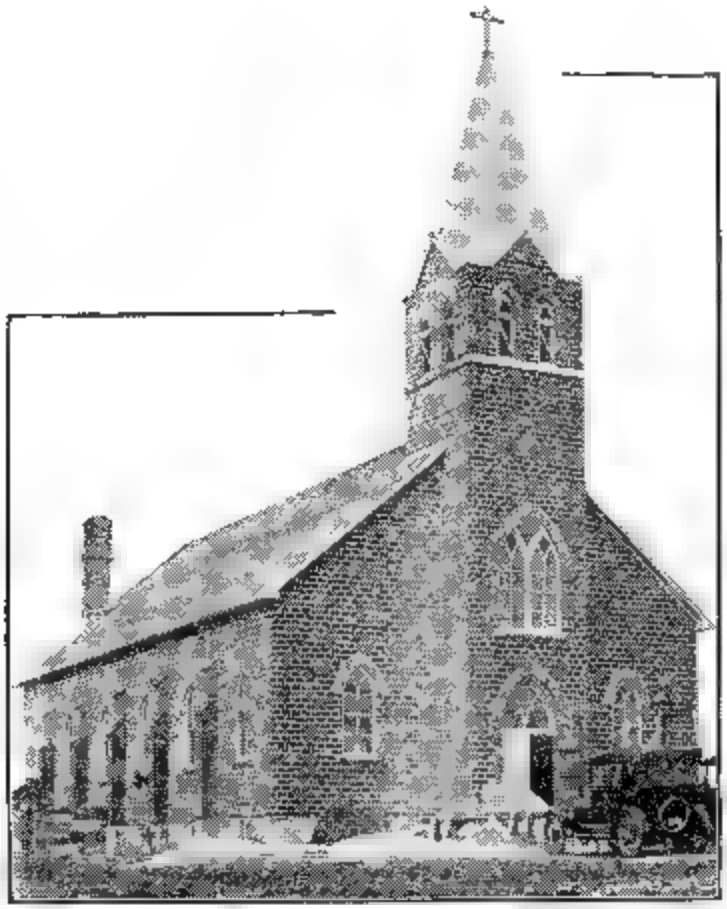
On Aug 20, 1950, Father John celebrated the [illegible]th anniversary of his ordination. At the Solemn [illegible] mass Fathers Leo Hinz and Leander Dosch, both sons of St Peter's Colony assisted as deacon and subdeacon, and Prior Peter preached in English and German At the parish festival following the divine services, several congratulatory addresses were made by representatives of the Marysburg and Pilger Congregations, and a Studebaker automobile, was presented to the Jubilarian. Father Florian acted as chairman. Shortly after the jubilee celebration in Marysburg and Pilger, Father John visited his relatives in his home parish of St Bernard, at St. Paul, Minn

Assumption Parish was the first church in the Colony to install a public address system Besides the relics encased in every altar, there is a large relic of St Conrad of Parzham, which was sent to Father John from Altoetting, where Brother Conrad died, and a small relic of St. Theresa of Lisieux Three choirs are active at present, the men's choir under the direction of Albert Jaeb, the junior choir of mixed voices under the direction of Miss Louise Schulte, and the children's choir in charge of the Ursuline Nuns, with Louise Schulte as organist for all Former directors and organists included Frank

X. Strueby, Mother Xaveria, Michael Frank and Mrs. Frank. Besides trustees already mentioned, the following have been on the church board Henry Therres, Mathias Puetz, Henry Schulte, Fred Distel, George Rositch, George Riederer Lawrence Stroeder, Michael Frank. The present board consists of Max Mueller, Isidore Puetz, Adolph Zintel, Louis Brinkmeier, Paul Bauml.

Former parishioners now in religious orders include Mother Catherine Distel, now superior of the Ursulines in Bruno; Mother Aquina Schulte, [illegible] Ursula's Convent, Bruno; six daughters of the deceased Mr and Mrs. Joseph Stroeder, members of the Franciscan Convent of St. Joseph, Milwaukee, Wis., two daughters of Mr and Mrs. Lawrence Stroeder, in the same convent; Sister Mary Alphonse Wiegers, in U.S., Sister Melanie, O.S.E., and Sr. Antonia Bohl, O.S.E., Humboldt, Bro. Dominic Distel, O.S.B., at Muenster

First log church of St. Bernard and school at old Pilger



Church of St. Bernard, Pilger, shortly after completion.

To the zeal of Father Ildephonse, the pastor of Fulda, is to be ascribed the founding of St Bernard's Mission in the district of Pilger, after the mission of the same name west of Humboldt (Dixon, had been abandoned. The first Benedictine to set foot in this locality was Father Bruno when he inspected the land on September 30, 1902. On Jan. 23, 1907, at a meeting presided over by Prior Bruno, in the home of Mr John Lukan, it was decided that a parochial school should be erected on section 36, township 39, range 23. It was to be built of logs and would also serve as a church. The following trustees were elected: Henry Wirtz, Philip Fleischhacker and Joseph Stauber. Logs were cut and hauled that winter and the building was completed during the summer, so that Father Ildephonse was able to celebrate Holy Mass in it on August 4, 1907. A choral Mass was sung, the choir consisting of the Adolph Lange family, members of the new mission. Since Father Ildephonse was fully occupied with his own parish and mission, Father Bernard, and later Father Boniface, came from Muenster by horse and buggy to attend the new mission.

When Father Casimir took up his residence at Marysburg in 1915, he was also given charge of St Bernard's Mission. Soon the congregation decided to build a new church and a building fund was started. A new location on higher ground was selected, the southeast corner of the northwest quarter of section 12, township 40, range 23, a mile and a half north of the log church, and Mr Joseph Stauber donated 10 acres of his homestead. Building began in the spring of 1918. During July about 75 teams hauled brick and building material from Humboldt, and the same month the seven foot foundation was completed. Mr Kurt Hempel of Bruno was named contractor for the mason work and bricklaying. The dimensions of the building were 108 x 49, interlocking tiles formed the walls and estimated cost was about $12,000. In record time the church was completed and the people of Pilger were justly proud of their achievement. Since it has a beautiful location the new church with its stately tower can be seen from a great distance, especially since it received a coat of white stucco several years ago.

A memorable event for the people was the blessing of their church on August 1, 1920, by Abbot Michael. He had Holy Mass at 8 a.m. at which 26 children received their first Holy Communion. At 10 a.m., he blessed the church and Solemn Highmass followed. Prior Peter was celebrant, Fr. Casimir deacon and Fr. Walter Reger, O.S.B., a member of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., subdeacon. Prior Peter briefly reviewed the history of the Pilger church during his sermon, and Abbot Michael congratulated the congregation and their pastor on the great work accomplished. He also explained the importance and significance of the Sacrament of Confirmation before he confirmed a class of 40. After the Te Deum the people went to the old log church and partook of a plentiful dinner which the ladies of the parish had prepared. The receipts from the dinner and the parish festival which followed amounted to $1,820.

A new parish school of tiles was erected about 50 yards to the north of the new church and was nearly completed at the time of the blessing of the church. The number of children attending in 1920 was 45; the number of parishioners was 274, consisting of 48 families and 11 single adults.

On May 31, 1923, Fr Joseph Leo Mutter, a member of the Congregation of the Precious Blood, Carthagena, Ohio, in the presence of his aged mother and relatives, offered up his first solemn Highmass in St Bernard's Church. He was assisted by Father Matthias as assistant priest, by Father Casimir, as deacon, and Father Pius Mutter, a brother of the celebrant, as subdeacon, Father Casimir preached in English and Father Rudolph in German. In 1927 Father Pius Mutter was ordained and also held his first Mass here.

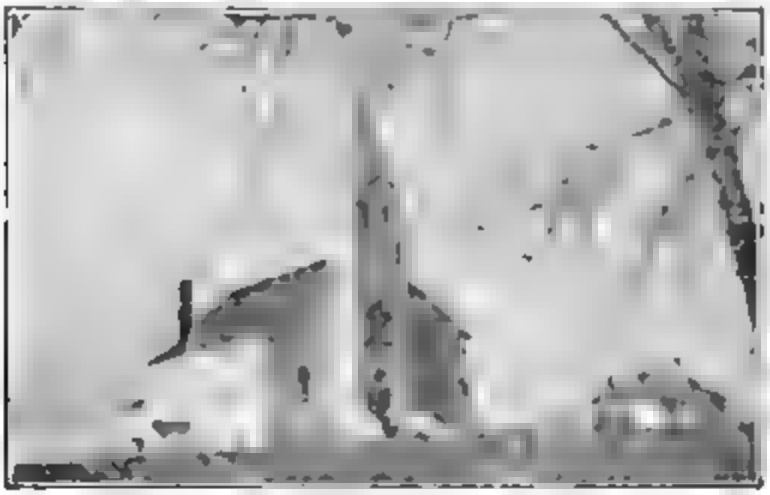
An addition of two rooms to the church was built in 1930, large enough to lodge the pastor on his visits and to serve as office. Father Matthias made use of it the first time in Jan., 1931. Shortly after his death on June 27, 1931, Father John was placed in charge of St. Bernard's as indicated in the Marysburg annals. He bestowed the same pastoral care as his predecessors and made numerous improvements and alterations including an oil heating system, electric lights and stuccoing the

church

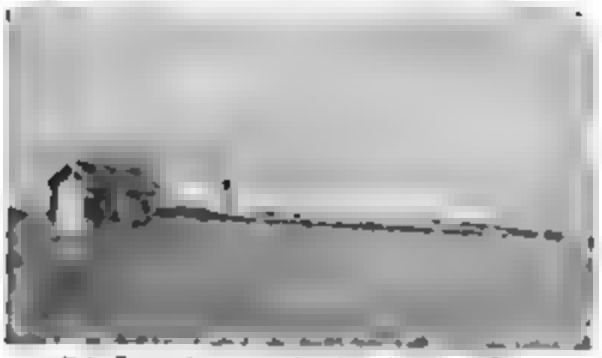
An unusual celebration was held here on June 24, 1944, when Father Mathias Bregenser, C.Ss.R., of Chicago, a brother of Peter Bregenser and Mrs. Henry Schmidt, observed his 40th ordination anniversary and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schmidt marked their 50th wedding anniversary. Father Bregenser had a solemn High Mass at which the couple renewed their marriage vows and Prior Peter preached. Two of Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt's daughters, Sisters Frances and Veronica, Elizabethan Sisters, also attended. Other religious vocations from Pilger include a daughter of the pioneer Mutter family, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly and three daughters of the Adam Dobmeier family.

[illegible]s Kelly died as a novice.

St. Bernard's Church has been beautified interiorily and exteriorly and is certainly a credit to the congregation and their pastor, Father John, who constructed the main altar and canopy. The parish has an energetic choir with Mrs. B. Ehaut as organist, succeeding Mrs. B. Wehage who devotes her time now mainly to the fine choir at Holy Trinity Chapel in town. The present church board consists of Leo Hueser, Jerome Pitzel, Frank Stauber, Leonard Lukan and Joseph Jurgens, while the following form the committee for the chapel in town: Peter Bregenser, Peter Lukan, Peter Schmidtz, Stephen Pomedli, Jr., and Leander Beechy.



Present church of St. Bernard.



Holy Trinity [illegible] chapel in [illegible] of Pilger.

St. Anne's Parish, Annaheim

and St. Martin's Mission

On July 25, 1903, Prior Alfred, Fathers Dominic and Peter drove in a heavy wagon to Dead Moose Lake, where Father Peter was left to spend the night in a tent. The next morning he was taken by Mr. Peter Funk to William Kreutzenbeck's house west of the lake for the first Sunday services in St. Joseph's Parish. In the meantime Prior Alfred and Father Dominic, who had arrived at the little log cabin priory at Muenster three days before, proceeded on a faint wagon trail in an easterly direction for a distance of about 12 miles to the home of Mr. Adam Specht, the southwest quarter of section 10, township 39, range 20. The next morning, July 26, each celebrated Mass in what is now the parish of Annaheim. Since that day was the feast of St. Ann, the mother of the Blessed Virgin, the new parish was called St. Ann. Later the postoffice was changed to Annaheim, "the home of Ann." George Doepker served both Masses on that day. Father Dominic was placed in charge of this parish, the fifth in the Colony.

Present at that first service were Mr. and Mrs. Adam Specht and their five children, and nearly all the following settlers: Anton Evertz, Werner Halbach, Christoph Hamling, Joseph Hoffmann, Emil, Henry and Paul Lachmuth, Joseph Fasching, Philip Winter, August Roenspies, Frank Doepker, Louis Schumacher, Nicholas Kramer, Philip Hoffmann, Peter Kraemer, Ray Litkenhaus, John Fasching, John Halbach, Peter Hoffmann, August Schulz, Fred Winter, Frank Schiltz, Andrew Stangel, Mrs. Joseph Hoffmann, Caroline Hoffmann,, Ann Lachmuth, Mrs. W. Halbach, Mrs. Hamling and four children, John, Fr. Andrew and Paul Lingnau, Miss Mary Lingnau, Mrs. Kraemer, Mrs. Stangel, John Schultz, Lawrence Halbach, Mrs. Winter and six children, Ben, George and Theodore Doepker, and Mrs. Roenspies and five children.

The next day Prior Alfred and Father Dominic set out with the same team and wagon for Rosthern, where a team of ponies and a buggy were purchased from Mr. A. J. Adamson. Father Dominic was very pleased at having acquired such a fast pair of horses. A good team of horses was for the missionary in the early days not only a pleasure and a blessing, but a necessity, since he had to cover great distances.

On August 13, 1903, Father Dominic took [illegible] in Annaheim, and until the completion of the log church, stayed with the Werner Halbach family and conducted services there. On Aug. 26, 1903, the southwest quarter of section 2, township 39, range 20, was selected as his [illegible] and as church site. On August 29 the four months old child of Adam Faul died and was buried here. This was the first funeral in the new parish. On Sept. 7, 1903, Frank Schiltz, Andrew Stangel and Werner Halbach started work on the log church and dwelling for the pastor. The work went slowly since the settlers had more than enough to do to provide for themselves the barest necessities before winter. Father Dominic took a hand in its construction. There was great joy when holy Mass was offered the first time in the new log church on Nov. 15, 1903. The dimensions were 16 x 44; one part was for the church and another part, closed off by a partition, was the pastor's residence. Father Dominic moved into this unusual parish house on Dec. 1, and his sister Frances was his first housekeeper. (She married Mr. Arnold Dauk later.) On the same day the first wedding was celebrated in the church, the couple being Raymond Litkenhaus and Caroline Hoffmann. The first baptism was conferred Christmas day on Philip Ernest George Winter, the sponsors being George Doepker and Anna Lachmuth. On the same day Father Dominic also sang the first Highmass, and because no organ was available, the choir sang to the accompaniment of a guitar.

Father Dominic had the reputation of being a good book-keeper and mathematician. Making use of this knowledge, he calculated it would be easier for the pioneers to make their purchases in Melfort which was only about 38 miles — as the bird flies — to the north of Annaheim while Rosthern was 95. His figures impressed Mr. Paul Lachmuth, and on Oct. 5, early in the morning, the two set out for Melfort. The southern shore of Lake Lenore where Bernard Gerwing had his homestead was easily reached. They then went along the eastern shore of the lake in a northerly direction, but

First church at Assabeim

Old St. Ann church at Assabeim. Fr. Dominic in center with group of parishioners

soon encountered so much water-soaked, muddy ground and marshes covered with jungle-like thickets, that they became lost. It began to rain and rained without ceasing, to add to their misery night closed in on them. Wet to the skin, cold and hungry, they had to halt and spend the night in the open. The horses also were tired and hungry. It was the most uncomfortable night Father Dominic ever spent. They decided to give up trying to find a way to Meifort, and when morning dawned they tried to find their way home. It was still raining, and finally at 10 p.m. they reached the house of Bernard Gerwing, where they found shelter, food and a warm stove to dry their clothes.

The first trustees of the Annaheim parish were Frank Doepker, Emil Lachmuth, Philip Winter and John Lingnau. During the summer of 1904 a two storey parish house, 18x26, was erected with lumber brought from Rosthern, the interior being completed the next year. To accomodate the new settlers who were coming into the parish, a 16 x 20 frame, addition to the church, was built in 1906. The parishioners wanted a new church, but the crops of 1907 and 1908 were poor. However in the summer of 1908 a loan at a reasonable rate of interest was obtained, and without delay the parishioners began to build a new church large enough to fulfill all requirements and beautiful enough to be a credit to Annaheim. During March, 1909, the lumber arrived at the station at St. Gregor and was brought to Annaheim. The contract for laying the foundation was let to Mr. John T. Schmutz, and by June 24 the building was far enough advanced so that the cornerstone could be blessed by Prior Bruno. The cost of the foundation was $324, and the contract for the superstructure was let to Messrs. Samuel Johnston and Michael Brunn for $1574. The dimensions were 44 x 102, with a tower 106 ft. Father Hugo Tell, O.S.B. of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., supervised the building which was of Gothic design.

By Oct. 24, 1909, the new church was completed and divine service was held for the first time in it by Father Peter, since Father Dominic was absent for medical treatment. The three bells for the new church were blessed on August 31, 1909, by Bishop Pascal, assisted by Prior Bruno, Father Bernard and Father D. Gamache, and were named St. Ann, Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. After the blessing they were placed in the tower and rung for the Angelus that evening. The solemn dedication of the church took place on June 29, 1910, with Bishop Pascal officiating. Father Dominic celebrated Highmass at which a group of children received their first Holy Communion and in the afternoon solemn Vespers were sung after which 69 children were confirmed.

On the preceding day the Bishop came from Lake Lenore and was to be met by 14 horsemen a short distance from Annaheim, and to be conducted to the church, where the whole congregation was awaiting him. It was a very warm day. About half way between Lake Lenore and Annaheim a strange thing happened. It had all the appearance of a hold-up. A tall man rushed out of the bush through which the road passed and stopped the buggy in which the Bishop, and Fathers Vincent Shifferer, Peter and Dominic were riding. The scare, however, was only momentary, and quickly changed to pleasure. The man was Mr. John Korte, a member of the parish, who had erected a bower in the bush. In it was a chair for the Bishop and some cool beer to quench the travellers' thirst. This friendly gesture delighted the Bishop immensely.

On October 1, 1904, the St. Joseph's Society for men was established and Frank Schiltz was chosen president. The St. Ann's Christian Mothers' Confraternity was founded on July 26, 1905, with Mrs. Paulina Lachmuth as president and in May 1908 St. Rose's Sodality for young ladies was established with Miss Appolonia Saxger as president. At this time the parish had 70 families and 56 single adults.

A feast of great joy for the pastor and parishioners was celebrated on July 2, 1911 when Father Martin Hoffmann, O.S.B., of the Abbey of Mt. Angel, Oregon, a brother of Father Dominic, offered his first solemn High Mass. The church was specially decorated for they occasion. Fr. Dominic was the assistant priest and preached, Fathers Casimir and Joseph were deacon and subdeacon.

During a violent thunderstorm on July 10, 1916, the tower of the church was struck by lightning igniting the belfry. Luckily the fire was noticed at once and firefighters, among them Jos. Aschenbrenner, Louis Schober and Jos. Lengen, extinguished the flames, and the church was saved.

Father Dominic was pastor of Annaheim almost 15 years, when he was transfered to Watson

Present basement church of St. Ann, Assiniboia

Second church of St. Ann and rectory

and Fr. Bernard succeeded him in June 1918. The St. Peter's Bote of June 5, 1918, has the following comment on the transfer: "Annaheim, as well as Lake Lenore developed under Fr. Dominic's direction into strong, well disciplined congregations, well able to take their place alongside the other parishes of St. Peter's Colony. Annaheim has a splendid church, a fine parish house and other necessary buildings, all equipped with electric lights. Also St. Anthony's Parish at Lake Lenore is in fine condition, both spiritually and financially, and there the people hope to erect a big church in the not too distant future."

The first Holy Mass was celebrated at Lake Lenore on May 29, 1904 by Father Dominic and from that date on he drove with his ponies to that mission every second Sunday of the month. The first mission at both places was conducted by Father William Brabender, O.M.I., and Paul Hilland O.M.I., at Annaheim, Nov. 8-14, 1908, and at Lake Lenore Nov. 15-21. Holy Mass at Lake Lenore was at first celebrated in Bernard Gerwing's house, but by Christmas, 1904, a church 24 x 40, with a choir loft, was completed. The site was section 4, township 40, range 21. By the spring of 1906 a parish house, 18 x 24 and 14 ft. high was also completed. The church had to be enlarged, and a sacristy, sanctuary and tower were added. Drop siding nailed to the log building made the church look better and easier to heat.

Father Bernard continued to guide St. Ann's Parish and the mission at Lake Lenore in the same spirit as his predecessor. He was pastor at Annaheim four years and on Nov. 12, 1922, was appointed first resident pastor of St. Anthony's Parish at Lake Lenore. Here under his supervision the present brick church and school were built in 1921 and 1922. As his successor at St. Ann's Parish, Abbot Michael named Father Joseph Wickel and assigned to him also mission of St. Gregor.

Father Joseph was in charge of St. Ann's hardly four months when the parish was visited by a great misfortune. On March 2, 1923, after the Stations of the Cross, between four and five p.m. smoke was seen rising from the roof near the chimney close to the winter chapel attached to the Church. There was no chance to save anything. Within a short time the entire church was reduced to ashes, and the parish house was badly scorched. The loss was well over $40,000, and the insurance only $10,000. The parish hall, which had been erected by Father Bernard, was now used for divine services, but was much too small to accommodate all.

The heavy blow suffered by the parishioners was lightened by a great feast on June 17, 1923, when Father Theodore Doepker, a son of the parish, a member of St. Peter's Abbey of Muenster, and the first Benedictine from St. Peter's Colony, celebrated his first solemn Highmass. In the company of Abbot Michael, he was met by a group of horsemen and conducted to the parish house on June 16. An altar was erected in the open amid a number of lovely trees and shrubs. At 10:00 a.m. of June 17 Fr. Theodore was led in procession to the place prepared for the holy sacrifice. The brass band played and about two thousand people had assembled from far and near. Father Theodore had Father Peter as assistant priest, Father Dominic as deacon and Father Wilfrid as subdeacon and Abbot Michael preached. The blessing of a new bell, donated by the Lingnaus, had to be postponed on account of a very heavy rain.

After the disaster of March 2, the congregation determined to erect a new church. It was to be a temporary but solid concrete basement church. Excavation started on July 23. The dimensions were 126 x 42, with the transept measuring 45 x 62. Despite pressing harvest work, 18 to 24 men of the parish assisted every day in pouring the concrete for the walls. To complete them to a height of 14 feet, 1755 bags of cement, 350 loads of sand and gravel and 40 loads of stones were used, as well as the stones from the foundation of the old frame church. The interior and exterior of the basement church were completed in 1924, and on Sept. 14 Abbot Michael blessed it. Next day funeral services were held for Mrs. John Reiter. She had been a very active member of the Christian Mothers, and died after two days' illness at the age of 65.

A new parish house was erected under Father Joseph's direction in 1926. Next year the Ursuline Nuns of Bruno took charge of the Laurier School near the church, and the former parish house was renovated and given to the Sisters for a home. Mr. Anton Stadelman was the contractor for both the basement church and parish house at Annaheim.

Former St. Mark's Church

Present Church of St. Mark's

A very successful mission was preached from July 25 to Aug. 1, 1926, by Fr. Cyril Mohr, C.P. On June 3, 1928, Abbot Severin conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on 45 children, who in the morning had made their Solemn Communion. On the same occasion the Ordinary conducted the canonical visitation of the parish and visited the cemetery where he said the prescribed prayers for the deceased of the parish.

On July 26, 1928, St. Ann's Parish celebrated the silver jubilee of its founding. Abbot Severin celebrated Pontifical Highmass with Father Joseph as assistant priest, Fathers Casimir and Marcellus as deacons of honor. Fathers Bernard as deacon of the Mass, and Matthias as subdeacon. Father Dominic delivered the sermon in which he reviewed the history of the parish and showed how God blessed the parishioners during the twenty five years.

Another feast in which the parish of Annaheim shared was the silver jubilee of Father Joseph's ordination at which Abbot Severin preached. The next eleven years of Father Joseph's life were years of suffering. He died April 25, 1947. During most of these years he had help on Sundays from Muenster, Fathers Aloysius, William, Philip, and Florian assisting at various times. After his death, Father Aloysius was appointed administrator until Father Matthew was named pastor by Abbot Severin who also assigned St. Martin's Mission to him.

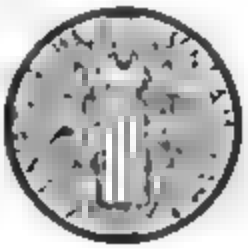
The second son of St. Ann's Parish to be raised to the priesthood, Father Leander Dosch, O.S.B., of St. Peter's Abbey, celebrated his first solemn Highmass on Sunday, June 11, 1950, with Father Matthew, as assistant priest, and Fathers Leo and William deacon and subdeacon. Abbot Severin preached, extolling the great powers of a priest and God's mercy to His children.

In September 1952, Father Matthew was appointed pastor of St. Boniface Parish at Leofeld and of the mission of the Holy Family and Father Paul was named pastor of Annaheim and the mission of St. Martin. During his stay at Annaheim Father Matthew inaugurated the electrification of most farms in the parish, later expanding that great improvement in other areas. This was the first large rural electrification project in Saskatchewan and has been followed in other districts. To show their appreciation for his efforts people of the parish and neighboring places donated a car to him shortly after his transfer to St. Boniface Parish.

The following young ladies of the parish of St. Ann dedicated their lives to the service of God: Mother Aloysia Dauk, Mother Carola Halbach, Sister Imelda Doepker and Sr. Bernarda Mueller, Ursulines at Bruno; Sr. Anna Marie Lange, O.S.E., of Humboldt; St. Mathilda Dauk, Sr. Mary Verda Dauk, Sr. Mary Oliva Hagerty, Sr. Mary Annabe Kennedy, Sisters of the Missions, Regina. Brothers Bernard and Aloysius Lange are at the Abbey.

In July 1952 Father Celestine Kapsner, O.S.B., of St. John's Abbey, preached a successful liturgical mission here and at St. Martin. Father Martin O.F.M., also held a mission several years before.

Father Dominic visited the district wherein the church of St. Martin now stands during the summer of 1905 offering the first Holy Mass there, and Fr. Chrysostom visited the sparsely populated district at intervals during the following years. A log church was built by the settlers and blessed on June 20, 1910 by Bishop Pascal who also confirmed a number of settlers. When Fr. Chrysostom had to undergo an operation in 1939, the mission was attended by the pastor of Engelfeld. Many a time Father Matthew, while pastor of Engelfeld, had some trying experiences during the winter, in making his visits on horseback. The district is somewhat low and the snow drifts were sometimes mountainous. From Annaheim there is now a fairly good road straight east to the mission. In 1950 a new frame church was erected under the direction of Father Matthew, a church which is credit to the rather small congregation of St. Martin.



Second Church of St. Anthony

Lake Lenore and St. James

By the end of June 1920 the new C.N.R. line from Humboldt to Melfort was constructed through St. Anthony's parish. The site for the station and new town of Lake Lenore was about a mile south of the church which had been erected in 1904. On the townsite a number of business places, including a bank and an elevator, had been built even before the railroad reached it. The joy of the people was great when their comparative isolation ended and it was but natural that they longed for a new church and school, large enough to accomodate the increasing population. A meeting of the parishioners was held on October 3, 1920, but no definite decision was reached. At another meeting Nov. 21, 1920, it was decided to build a new church and school near the station. At a meeting on Feb. 20, 1921 a building committee was chosen to assist Father Bernard, consisting of Nicholas Schuler, Nicholas Berscheid, John Gerwing, Fred Riederer, and the trustees of the parish. By the end of March sand and gravel was already being hauled to the site chosen in the north section of the town, and in July the concrete for the basement of the church and school had been poured. Mr. Anton Stadelman secured the contract for the construction of both buildings.

The cornerstone laying for each of the buildings occurred on Aug. 21, 1921. Abbot Michael celebrated pontifical Mass in the old church with Prior Peter and Father Casimir assisting, and Prior Peter briefly explained the ceremonies of blessing and laying the cornerstone. After Mass the clergy and the people marched in procession to the site of the new church and school. Father Bernard was master of ceremonies and Fathers Peter, Casimir and Andrew anointed the Abbot. A prayer was recited before the cross which was erected at the place where the altar in the church was to stand. After the cornerstone, which is a symbol of Christ, was laid, the walls were sprinkled with holy water. After the laying of the cornerstone for the school the Abbot preached, pointing out the absolute necessity of having a good Catholic school. Only by means of a thorough Catholic education can good Catholics be formed, he said, and without a good school the erection of a church is almost useless. He congratulated the people of Lake Lenore and their pastor for providing not only a church but also a school.

The St. Peter's Bote, Aug. 25, 1921 reported that St. Anthony of Padua was chosen patron of the church on the day of the first Holy Mass in the district by Father Dominic on May 29, 1904 at the home of Mr. Bernard Gerwing. At a meeting on October 23, 1904, the site of the church was chosen. Bernard Gerwing and Peter Wolsfeld were each willing to donate five acres of land. At the first service a collection was taken up by Father Dominic as the start of a building fund, and it amounted to $167. Friends from Pierz, Minn., also contributed, so that half the expenses of building were paid, and all work was done gratis. Mr. Michael Hoffmann superintended the building.

When Father Dominic was absent at the beginning of 1905, Father Chrysostom looked after the mission for two months, besides attending Dead Moose Lake and Fulda. The first Highmass at Lake Lenore was celebrated on March 19, 1905. Mr. Hoffman and his sons built the first altar and Mr. Louis Walter, an expert joiner, built the tabernacle. On May 14, 1905, the members of the Mission decided to build a parish house, and it was finished in the spring of 1906. The debt on the church on July 14, 1905, amounted to $100. A parish festival on Dominion Day, 1906, netted $62. Mr. Math. Butala, who arrived in 1905, brought a vestment, a monstrance, a holy water font and a sprinkler. Up to that time the priest used a twig from a tree, or an herb from the field for the Asperges.

On Aug. 23, 1905, Bishop Pascal paid his first visit to Lake Lenore. He blessed the church, confirmed a group of young people, and preached in English. Prior Alfred spoke in German. After having blessed several other churches and confirmed many young people, he returned to Lake Lenore, in August 1906, on this occasion Joseph Gaetz and Fred Wm. Gerwing, two expert boatmen, took him across the lake to St. Brieux. They started the trip in the morning and by evening

St. Anthony School, Lake Linden

Present Church of St. Anthony, Lake Linden

had landed safely in the harbor" of St Brieux

The Bishop visited Lake Lenore again on June 16, 1910, and remained until June 18. Father Dominic brought him in his buggy, accompanied by Father Vincent Schiffrer, O.S.B., of St. John's Abbey, and Father Peter of Muenster. Two miles south of the church 26 horsemen and a brass band of 12 musicians met the distinguished visitor and escorted him to the church. Trees were "planted" along the road and arches erected. When the Bishop arrived at the Church he imparted his blessing to the people who had gathered to meet him Next day Father Dominic celebrated High Mass during which six children received their first Holy Communion. In the afternoon Pontifical Vespers were sung, the Bishop confirmed 25 children, and gave a very instructive address. Bishop Pascal visited Lake Lenore for the last time on August 19. 1916, and again administered the sacrament of Confirmation

Father Dominic was pastor of St. Anthony's Mission from the beginning until June 4, 1918, when he was appointed pastor of Watson. On several occasions during his absence, services were conducted by Fathers Chrysostom, Boniface, Casimir, Bernard, Hugo Tell, Peter Fischer and Prior Peter Until 1917 services were held every second Sunday, and then, at least in the summer, every Sunday By 1919 the Catholic population of the parish was 489, so that it was clear that a new church and school were necessary It was decided to erect both on the northeast quarter of section 32. township 39, range 21, on the five acres which Bernard Gerwing had donated. The dimensions of the new church were 110 x 50 with a full basement 12 ft high. The interior of the church from floor to ceiling was 34 ft The dimensions of the two storey school with full basement was 66 x 36

In the issue of Oct. 3, 1921, the St. Peter's Bote published the following names of the pioneers who attended the first Holy Mass on May 25, 1903, in the home of Bernard Gerwing: Peter Weiland, Peter Schuler, Frank J. Suchy, Jas. Weiland, Nick Schemenauer, Edw J Linda, Joseph, Anthony, Henry, Bernard, Agnes, Elizabeth, Susan and John Gerwing, Nick Hoffmann, Nick Kolling, Hy. Weiland, Xavier Stelzer, Mich Kohlbeck, John Stelzer Nick Braun. Theresa and Mary Schiltz Anna and Mrs. Andr Stangel. Peter and Johanna Doyscher, Hanna, Francis, Rosa and Michael Hoffmann, Marg. and Raymond Suchy, Herm. Schmidt, Peter Wolsfeld, Frank, Anthony, Anna and F P Revering.

On April 20, 1922, the large new school was opened with an enrollment of over 100 children in the two class rooms. Four Sisters from Bruno were placed in charge of the school, the two teachers being Mother Clara and Sister Magdalene. The other two were Sister Mechtild and Sister Crescentia, the latter in charge of the kitchen. Another room was opened in Sept. 1922, and later, a fourth. when the number of pupils reached over 160 in grades one to eight. Since it was a parochial school. pupils from the entire parish were enrolled. Owing to special circumstances, the school was converted into a public school. in 1930. but since 1935 the Sisters are again teaching there

By the middle of July, 1922, the cement floor in the basement of the new church was finished, and from then until the blessing of the church, Holy Mass was celebrated there. By this time, too, the excavation for the new parish house was completed

Father Bernard took up residence in the parish on Nov. 17, and on the following Dec 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the church was dedicated. Abbot Michael arrived with Father Dominic shortly before 10 a.m. and was conducted in procession by Father Bernard and the servers into the church. The choir sang "Ecce sacerdos magnus" which was specially composed for this occasion. After the dedication Father Bernard celebrated Highmass, and Father Dominic, the founder of the parish, preached After Mass Abbot Michael addressed the congregation and congratulated them, remarking that "the churches of St Peter's Colony must be counted among the most beautiful in all Western Canada" He also spoke of his recent visit to Rome, and imparted the Apostolic Benediction

By Nov., 1923, the new parish house. likewise a brick building, erected by Mr Stadelman, was completed, and Father Bernard moved into it

The first solemn Highmass of Rev Louis Gwynn took place on August 3, 1924 He had been ordained by Bishop Prud'homme, with Father Wilfrid at Tramping Lake He was a secular priest who had been incardinated in the Abbey Nullius of

Church of St. James Alaska

Muenster by Abbot Michael. His assistants were Fathers Cosmas and Wilfrid and Bernard who delivered the sermon. Abbot Michael was also present with Frater Francis, the present pastor of Lake Lenore.

Father Bernard, who in the space of three years had directed the building of the beautiful church, school and parish house, was transferred to St. Benedict in the summer of 1924, and Father Rudolph succeeded him. A farewell celebration was held on August 20. The financial report at the time showed that the three new buildings, together with three acres of land, cost about $64 000, and that there was a debt of about $38,000 which was paid when economic conditions improved.

The lawn, shrubs and trees around the rectory and the school grounds, are the fruit of Father Rudolph's personal labors. Another achievement in connection with the church must be cited, the purchase and importation of four church bells from Germany. These were blessed by Right Rev. Severin Gertken on Sunday, Nov. 9, 1930. Fr. Rudolph was justly proud of these bells and whenever distinguished visitors arrived he delighted in ringing them, and was highly pleased when they admired them.

On June 23, 1929, he had the happiness of observing the silver jubilee of his ordination, and his parish shared his joy. He celebrated a solemn High Mass at 10:00 a.m., with Fathers Domnic as deacon and Marcellus as subdeacon, and Abbot Severin delivered the festal sermon. After the services there followed a banquet prepared by the parishioners, and many gifts were presented including some from former parishioners at St. Benedict. The bands from Lake Lenore and St. Benedict provided music, and a number of his confreres were present. Shortly after the celebration Father Abbot permitted Father Rudolph, who perhaps more than any of the other Fathers bore the hardships of the pioneer days, to take a well deserved vacation in the land of his birth. It was during this visit that he secured the bells.

The Volksverein of St. Peter's Colony held its Distnct Convention at Lake Lenore on July 8-9 1925. On the first day Father Rudolph celebrated a solemn Highmass and Prior Peter delivered the sermon; on the second day Abbot Michael celebrated Pontifical Highmass, with Prior Peter as assistant priest, Fathers Joseph Sittenauer and Matthias as deacons of honor, Fathers Rudolph and Marcellus deacon and subdeacon of the Mass. In the afternoon, Fathers Aug. Kierdorf, O.M.I., and Joseph Sittenauer, O.S.B., gave addresses in which they pointed out the aims and purposes of the Volksverein.

During an amateur talent broadcast over the CKBI radio station at Prince Albert in the evening of Oct. 11, 1941 Mr. George Gerwing, pioneer postmaster of Lake Lenore, gave the following information: "The government official who surveyed this part of Saskatchewan had a daughter by the name of Lenora. When he came to the lake which extended from township 39 almost to township 43, and nearly 18 miles long, he named it Lenora Lake. When this community received its first post office in 1904, it was also called Lenora Lake, but in September 1939, the name was changed to Lake Lenore, as it was then commonly called. The village is situated on the Humboldt Melfort C. N. R. line in the centre of a very progressive farming community. The railroad was built in 1920, and until that time the farmers had to haul their grain to the elevators at Humboldt or Muenster, some 18 to 20 miles. The farmers of the surrounding district are mostly Canadian born, their parents, who are the real pioneers, having come here chiefly from the United States. The village itself, with a population of 300, has five elevators, with a capacity of 476,000 bushels. We have a bank, the bank of Montreal, with a staff of three, one hotel and beer parlor, two general stores, one grocery store and [illegible] two hardware stores, a drug store pool and billiard hall, telephone exchange with 24 hour service, four oil companies, two garages, blacksmith shop, lumber yard, six machine companies, and a beauty parlor . The surrounding country is specially adapted to grain and mixed farming.

Livestock raising is a profitable source of income for the farmers, as there were an average of 70 hogs and 15 head of cattle shipped from this station weekly during the last twelve months." Mr. Gerwing also mentioned that 25 young men from the district had enlisted in the various branches of the armed forces of Canada. The Lake north of the village, he stated, has three kinds of fish

whitefish, pike and mullet.

In 1933 Father Rudolph founded the Mission of St. James on the northeast corner of section 35, township 39, range 20, about 10 miles east of Lake Lenore. Holy Mass was celebrated there for the first time in a granary on March 15, 1933, and a second time on the following April 5. A new wooden building intended as a hall was completed and used as the first church. The first funeral in the Mission was held on March 23, 1934, when Carl Schreiner was interred in the new cemetery. Though he was quite busy with St. Anthony's Parish, Fr. Rudolph also attended the mission of St. James. The name was chosen to honor Abbot Severin whose baptismal name is James.

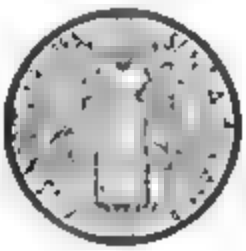
In 1950 a new frame church was erected in the Mission under the supervision of Father Francis. It measures 36 x 80, and has a tower modeled on the Spanish Mission style. The solemn blessing took place on September 9, 1951, with Abbot Severin officiating. On the same occasion he confirmed 36 boys and 27 girls, and also erected the stations of the cross. Father Florian celebrated the Highmass with Father Leo as deacon and Father Albert as subdeacon. There are 350 souls in the parish, and about 95 children in the three schools within its boundaries.

When Father Rudolph was called to his eternal reward on Aug. 25, 1942, Abbot Severin appointed Father Francis as the new pastor of St. Anthony's Parish and St. James' Mission. He repaid the debt of the former parish, had the interior of the church painted in 1944, and a new heating system installed. In 1947 new pews were installed and also a marble altar and communion rail.

The silver jubilee of erection of the new church was celebrated on December 7 and 8, 1947. Father Francis had the solemn Highmass with Fr. Wilfrid as deacon, and Father William as subdeacon. Present in the sanctuary were Abbot Severin who preached the sermon, and Father Dominic. In the afternoon His Lordship confirmed 40 boys and girls and two adults. The choir for the services was directed by the organist, Mr. Alphonse Gerwing.

Lake Lenore was privileged to partake in two other happy events. The one was the first solemn Highmass of Father William Gehien, O. S. B., a son of the parish, celebrated on July 11, 1937, with Father Norbert as deacon and Father Edward as subdeacon. Father Rudolph was the assistant priest, and Abbot Severin delivered the sermon. The other was the silver jubilee of the priesthood of Fr. Francis Aug. 2, 1950. Since he had decided to celebrate it in his home parish in Stillwater, Minn., in the presence of his mother and relatives, the parishioners of St. Anthony and St. James prepared a program for him instead. It was held on the north side of the school and and consisted of numerous musical selections and the presentation of gifts. About 700 people were present, among them three other jubilarians, Fathers Paul, Leonard, John, and Prior Peter. All were called upon to give short addresses. Father Francis expressed his surprise since he was unaware of the honor the parishioners had in store for him. He certainly appreciated the spirit of cooperation and cordiality in his congregation.

Former members of St. Anthony's Parish now in religious communities are the following: Sister Canisia Pfefferle, O.S.E., Sister Mary Herman Michels, O.S.U., Sister Eleanore Stroeder, O.S.U., Frater Daniel Gerwing and Frater Anselm Gerwing, both members of the Order of St. Benedict, expect to be ordained to the priesthood in a few years. Sister Audry Stolte, O.S.U., was formerly a parishioner of St. James' Mission.



Church of St. Donald

First Church of Ingolfield

Church of the Guardian Angels and Rectory, Deptford

Former Sacred Heart Church, Separate School and Rectory, Watson

Watson, Engelfeld, St Conrad & LeRoy

Prior Alfred Mayer, visited the settlers in person whenever possible and selected places most convenient and centrally located for establishing mission posts and future parishes. The fathers under his charge followed his example and at his bidding visited the scattered settlers, encouraging them and bringing them the consolations of the Church

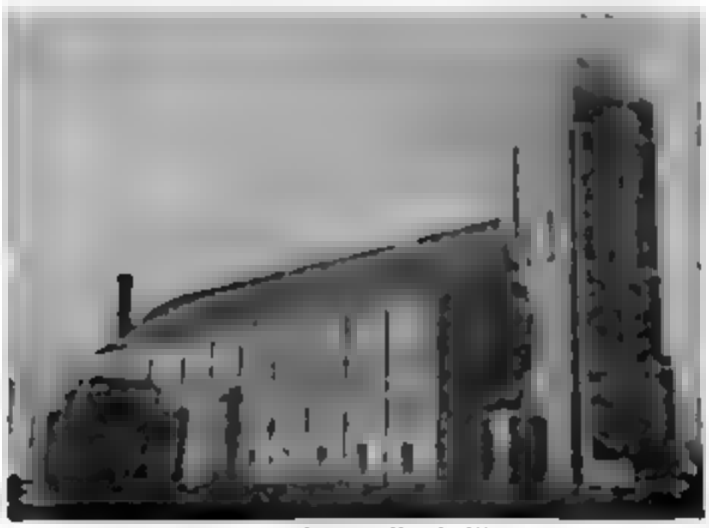
On August 1, 1903, Prior Alfred sent Father Peter, with Mr F J Lange, president of the Catholic Settlement Society, to the eastern part of St Peter's Colony There on Sunday, August 2, 1903, he celebrated the first Holy Mass in the tent of Mr Frank Kintz on the northwest quarter of section 20, township 36, range 19, now part of the Parish of the Holy Guardian Angels of Engelfeld Father Peter's report so impressed Prior Alfred that he visited the same territory with Mr Lange, and on August 16, also a Sunday, he celebrated Holy Mass in the house of Peter Heilmann on the southwest quarter of section 18, township 37, range 19, approximately five miles north of the present town of Watson. This was the first time Holy Mass was celebrated in the district which now lies within the Parish of the Sacred Heart, Watson On his second visit to the eastern part of the Colony, Father Peter said Holy Mass on Sunday August 30, 1903. He had been instructed by Prior Alfred to dedicate the mission (in the future parish of Engelfeld) to the Holy Guardian Angels. August 30 also happened to be the Sunday on which the Benedictine Order that year celebrated the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels, the patrons of the Benedictines of the American-Cassinese Congregation. (This feast, as in some countries of Europe to this day, used to be celebrated on the Sunday nearest to September 1 Since 1915, however the Benedictine Order, following the practice of the universal Church, celebrates it on October 2

Engelfeld is a German name meaning "Angels' Field " This name was chosen also to honour the man who aided the Canadian Benedictines so much in the pioneer days, Abbot Peter Engel of St John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota

When Prior Alfred and F J Lange visited this eastern part of the Colony the first time, they arrived late in the evening of August 15, 1903, at the log cabin of John Bettin and Paul Wacholtz. Nobody was home, and the door was locked, but "necessity knows no law," and the two visitors forced their way into the house and went to sleep after unhitching their horses and feeding them. During the night John Bettin returned and, noticing that the cabin was occupied, cried out, "Who is here?" Two voices at once replied "Father Alfred Mr Lange!" Since our pioneers, like the first Christians, "had all things in common (Acts 2, 44), there was no forcible eviction, but rather much joy and gladness. Next morning, as already mentioned, Prior Alfred said the first Holy Mass in what is now the Sacred Heart Parish of Watson

Father Peter spent the night in the same log cabin November 21, 1903, after a missionary experience of which he still has a vivid remembrance He left Munester on Saturday morning with a team of horses that had made a tiresome trip from Rosthern the day before. Although there was snow on the ground, he had to use the democrat wagon, for no sleigh was on hand. When he reached a dilapidated stable on the east bank of a creek a few miles southeast of the present town of St Gregor (about 15 miles from Muenster), he stopped, fed his team, made a fire, thawed out the piece of bread he had in the pocket of his fur coat, and ate his dinner Then he continued his trip. He had travelled about 25 miles when darkness set in. Having reached section 4, township 37, range 19, he saw a shack on Mr. Nordick's homestead and here he intended to stop for the night But the door was nailed shut, and there was no window; with a heavy heart he had to continue his trip. He reached the log cabin of Thomas Graf, where on August 30 and several times afterwards he had said Holy Mass, and here he decided to stay But again nobody was at home. Should he break in or proceed to the home of John Bettin and Paul Wacholtz, which could not be far away? There was no road, and if there had been a trail it was obliterated by the snow Settler's homes were

[illegible] Church at Watson



Present Sacred Heart Church, Watson

not easy to find even in daylight, and now it was night! After covering a mile or two he stopped his team and yelled as loud as he could. The only response was the howl of a coyote. On he went in the dark, and again after a mile he tried his vocal cords. His shouts were heard by John Bettin, who signalled with a lantern, and guided by the light, he reached his destination safely. During the night a blizzard arose, adding to the snow already on the ground. Amid wind and blowing snow Father Peter was conducted the next morning to the log house of Valentine Loeb on section 24, township 37, range 19, where he said Holy Mass and preached on the end of the world and the Last Judgement for it was the last Sunday after Pentecost. Because of the stormy weather, only a few people were present. Snow was melted to serve as water for the Lavabo at Mass, and during the Mass snow on the sod roof began to melt and trickle down on the altar, which was prepared on a table. Confessions were heard on a wooden box, the best seat available. On October 1, 1903 Father Peter baptized Louis Frank Auchstaetter, the infant son of Jacob Auchstaetter, at his homestead on section 30, township 35, range 18.

So much snow fell during the following winter that by March, 1904, it was practically impossible for a team to make the trip from Muenster to the Quill Lake plains, but in May Father Peter spent a whole week in the district, saying Mass in a number of homes. On May 14 he baptized Francis Sylvester Kolling, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Kolling, who lived on the southeast quarter of section 18, township 36, range 19. On May 17 he crossed the Iron Spring Creek on a raft and said Mass in the house of Frank Vossen. The large amount of water from the melting snow made the creek resemble a river. Wading in ice-cold water up to his chest, Frank Vossen pulled the raft with the priest and the altar utensils across the creek by means of a long rope. On May 18 Father Peter said Holy Mass in the house of Anton Bartsch and baptised his daughter Regina, who is now Sister Cecilia, an Ursuline nun of Bruno. On May [illegible] he received Mrs. Anton Hafnagel into the Church, her sponsors at the conditional baptism were Regina Klotz and Joseph Vossen. The services and baptism took place on Mr. Joseph Hufnagel's homestead on section 6, township 38, range 18. The baby Francis Sylvester Kolling died a few days after baptism and was buried on May 21, 1904, thus being the first burial in the district.

From July 3 to October 8 Father Matthias Steger, O.S.B., attended the Catholic settlers in this district. On August 15, 1904, he blessed the marriage of John Sommer and Mary Langheim, the first marriage in the eastern part of St. Peter's Colony. Father Peter again took charge from October 8 until Prior Alfred appointed Father Benedict Steigenberger, O.S.B., to that post. Father Benedict took up his residence in a small log cabin on Jacob Spring's farm. Spring's house, a separate building with two comparatively large rooms, served as a place of worship on Sundays, and in this house on Christmas Day, 1904, Father Peter celebrated the first Highmass within the future parish of Watson.

Two days after the arrival of Father Benedict, at a meeting of the Catholic settlers, the following trustees were elected for the Watson parish: Joseph Ackermann, Peter Bartsch, Adam Fuerstenberg, John Sommer and John Wilkes. At a meeting on February 19, 1906, at which Prior Alfred presided, it was decided that the district be divided into two parishes, the one for Watson to be called the Sacred Heart Parish, and the other the Engelfeld Parish. It was further decided that a church was to be erected as soon as possible in or near the rising town of Watson. (The Canadian National Railroad was under construction in 1904, and the railway company decided to honor Senator Watson by naming the new town after him.) For the congregation of the Holy Guardian Angels' Parish the following trustees were elected at the same meeting: Henry Nordick, John Pitka and John Bettin.

At Engelfeld under Father Benedict's direction a log church 20 x 30 feet with a small stocky tower, was started south of the railway station on the land of Joseph Nordick, and completed by the middle of July, 1905. This little church was solemnly blessed on August 16, 1905, by Bishop Pascal, O.M.I., who also confirmed 13 members of the parish. On August 22, Paul Wacholtz and Aurelia Kintz were married at a nuptial Mass. At Watson some difficulty was encountered in finding a suitable site for the church, but it was soon overcome [illegible] on October 29, 1905, the first services were

Holy Rosary Church, Leroy

held in the new frame church. It measured 30 by 22 feet and had a two-room annex on the west side as a dwelling for the pastor. Much credit is due to Father Benedict, who organized the congregations at Watson and Engelfeld and directed the building of the first churches.

South of Watson, St. Oswald Mission was formed in 1906 and Father Peter said the first Holy Mass in that locality in the house of Mat Bartholet on section 12, township 35, range 19 ... August 19. On October 14 he baptized Adeline Catherine Fetter, the first baptism administered in the new mission. He attended this mission from Muenster at regular intervals for about two years, until it was taken over by the resident pastor of Watson. On June 22, 1910, Bishop Pascal paid an informal visit to the mission and commented favorably on the little church which the congregation had erected. St. Oswald was chosen as patron in memory of Prior Oswald Moosmueller (St. Oswald was king of Northumbria, England, and a friend of the Benedictines.)

A triple feast was celebrated in St. Oswald's Church on August 29, 1916, when Bishop Pascal solemnly blessed the church and the bell and confirmed 13 young members of the mission. Father Bernard celebrated solemn Highmass, Fathers Casimir and Joseph assisting as deacon and subdeacon, and Prior Peter preached a short German sermon, and Bishop Pascal preached in English. The choir from Watson and the band from Engelfeld supplied the singing and the music. At the parish festival that followed the services, the sum of $400 was realized, and the congregation was free of debt. On August 20, 1950, under the pastorship of Father George Brodner, O.S.B., the church was moved to the village of Romance.

For 22 months Father Benedict attended the new congregation at Watson and Engelfeld until he was succeeded by Father Meinrad Seifermann O.S.B. early in 1907. The same year Father Meinrad built the present parish home at a cost of $2,000, enlarged the church and added the tower. After his departure in September, 1908, Father Benedict again took charge of Watson and Engelfeld until April, 1909, when Prior Bruno appointed Father Bernard Schaeffler, O.S.B., as pastor of both places and St. Oswald's Mission.

Bishop Pascal blessed the Watson church on June 3, 1910 and conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 25 members. On that occasion Prior Bruno celebrated a Highmass *coram pontifice*, while Fathers Peter and Bernard assisted the bishop, who addressed the congregation. The day before, June 2, 1910, the bishop, Prior Bruno and Father Bernard had driven by team to Engelfeld where Prior Bruno celebrated Highmass and the bishop confirmed 15. The bishop again visited Watson in 1911. On July 30 he celebrated Pontifical Highmass, assisted by Fathers Martin Hofmann, Joseph Wickel, Pierre Nicolet and Bernard Schaeffler. At this service 30 children of the parish received Solemn Communion at the hands of the bishop. In the afternoon he blessed three bells. The largest, weighing 400 lbs., was donated by the Christian Mothers; the second, weighing 225 lbs., and the third, weighing 120 lbs., were donated by parishioners. To the first was given the name "Anne", to the second, the name "Frances", and to the third, the name "Mary". Solemn Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament and a joyful *Te Deum* closed the inspiring ceremonies.

Another celebration for the parish of the Sacred Heart was the first Solemn Highmass of Father Joseph Wickel, O.S.B., who had been ordained priest by Bishop Pascal at Muenster on September 17, 1911. He arrived at Watson on September 30 and had his celebration on Rosary Sunday, October 1. Father Bernard, the pastor, was his assistant priest, Father Peter was deacon and Father Casimir, subdeacon. Father Bernard preached in German at the morning service, and Father Peter in English in the afternoon at Solemn Vespers and Benediction.

Abbot Bruno appointed Father Joseph as assistant to Father Bernard, and both priests attended not only the parish at Watson but also the missions at Engelfeld, St. Oswald's, St. Anselm's at Spalding, the mission at Jansen, and for some time even the mission at Carmel. Jansen is outside St. Peter's Colony, but the Catholics in the district asked for a German-speaking priest, and the Benedictine Fathers readily came to their aid. Now Father F. Juzynic of Sinnett attends the mission of Our Lady Queen of Heaven at Jansen.

In St. Anselm's Mission Father Dominic said the first Mass, presumably on June 8, 1905. It was Father Chrysostom, however who organized the

mission on December 4, 1905, placing it under the protection of the English Benedictine Bishop, St. Anselm. A log church 18 by 26 feet was completed during the summer of 1907 and Father Chrysostom had Highmass in it on June 9. This church stood on the southwest quarter of section 14, township 39, range 18. Because of the small number of Catholics in the district the mission was discontinued.

A similar fate befell the Holy Family Mission at Beauchamp, four miles west of Spalding. A small number of French Catholics homesteaded in the district, and Bishop Pascal provided for them by sending Father Benoit, a French priest, who endured real hardships there. Father Chrysostom lived at Beauchamp several years, also under very primitive conditions, until he moved to the new town of Naicam in 1926.

In 1912, under Father Bernard's supervision, the present frame church at Englefeld was erected north of the town, and in January, 1913, Father Joseph was appointed first resident pastor of the Holy Guardian Angels' Parish. Watson's separate school, a frame building, was also erected during the nine years of Father Bernard's pastorate and lay teachers staffed it till June 1924. In June, 1918 Father Dominic became pastor of Watson and took charge also of St. Oswald's Mission and the mission at Jansen. In July, 1920, Abbot Michael transferred Father Dominic to Humboldt and appointed Father Fridolin Tembreull, O.S.B., pastor of Watson. Seeing that the frame church built by Father Benedict and enlarged by Father Meinrad was too small for the growing congregation at Watson, Father Dominic had already made preparation for the construction of a more substantial one. The excavation was completed by August, 1920 and stones and sand were hauled to the site during the summer and winter. However, the actual construction of the basement church, 100 by 41 feet took place during Father Fridolin's pastorate. Bonas Brothers were the contractors of the $8,000 structure. The interior was 12 feet high and received light from 19 windows.

Abbot Michael blessed the new church on October 23, 1921. After the blessing Prior Peter celebrated the solemn Highmass with Father Fridolin as deacon and Father Marcellus as subdeacon. Father Peter delivered the German sermon. Abbot Michael celebrated Mass later in the morning, at which 12 children received their first Holy Communion. In the afternoon he confirmed 75 members of the parish, and announced that Father Marcellus was the new pastor of the Sacred Heart Parish and St. Oswald's Mission, and that Father Fridolin was returning to the Abbey.

During the pastorate of Father Marcellus the present Catholic separate school was erected, and the Ursuline Nuns placed in charge. On January 21, 1924 the school was blessed by Abbot Michael and the sisters' dwelling completed during the summer of 1924 was blessed on October 11 of the same year. Four Sisters were sent from Bruno to teach and in September, 1925, the school opened with 70 pupils in the elementary course and 12 in the high school. A statue of the Sacred Heart was blessed by Father Peter at the end of Forty Hours Devotion on December 8, 1925, and was placed at the entrance to the school. By 1952 the school proved too small and measures were taken to enlarge the building. The town officials permitting the issuance of debentures of $25,000, for that purpose.

In October, 1923, Father Marcellus was appointed pastor of Engelfeld and St. Gregor, and his place was taken by Father Theodore Doepker O.S.B., who guided both Watson and St. Oswald's Mission for twenty-five years. In the fall of 1948 he was appointed pastor of Carmel and the mission of the Immaculate Conception. His successor since September 6, 1948, has been Father George Brodner, O.S.B., who also has charge of St. Oswald's Mission and Holy Rosary Mission at Leroy. As has already been mentioned, Father George arranged the moving of St. Oswald's Church from its former location to the village of Romance in 1950. At Leroy he established the mission of the Holy Rosary. (Romance and Leroy came into existence after the Canadian Pacific Railway built their line through St. Peter's Colony from Langan to Melfort during the years 1919 - 1921.) At Leroy Father George first offered Holy Mass on October 2, 1948 in a room over Pine's drugstore, and later used the theatre until a frame church was erected in 1949. In May, 1950, Abbot Severin blessed the Holy Rosary Church. Father George not only attends regularly to the parish of Watson, but every Sunday and holyday of obligation he also visits his missions. Father Abbot having

obtained for him the faculty of saying three Masses on these days

Great activity was seen during the year 1952 in the Sacred Heart Parish at Watson. The parish had grown to such an extent that the basement church, built during the pastorship of Father Fridolin, could no longer accommodate the worshippers. Preparations were made and collections for a building fund were begun in 1951, and materials needed for the addition to the north and for the superstructure were purchased the same year. Construction began in earnest in 1952 under the supervision of Mr. Anton Stadelmann. The parishioners offered their wholehearted support and did much of the work gratis.

The historical notes on the parish of Watson would be incomplete without mention of Mr. William Henry Howe, who died on March 31, 1939, at the age of 101 years. He was born in the mountainous ridges of Kentucky, United States, on March 28, 1838, and as a young man voted for Abraham Lincoln. After an adventurous life he came to Vanscoy, Saskatchewan, in 1902 and after losing his possessions in a fire he moved to Watson in 1917. Shortly before his death he was received into the Church by Father Theodore, and on his 101st birthday, three days before his death, he had the happiness of receiving his first Holy Communion. A Requiem Mass was sung by Father Theodore on April 1, and he was laid to rest in the parish cemetery. Mr. Howe attributed his great age to his constant cheerfulness.

The present church at Engelfeld, a frame building 92 x 42 feet with a tower, was built on a new site north of the town during the summer of 1912. Mr. Jacob Schmitz, a member of the parish, was the contractor. A commodious winter chapel for services on week days was added later. The first divine service was held in it by Father Joseph, on October 27, 1912. That same year a set of four bells was purchased, and on December 15, 1912, they were blessed by Bishop Pascal. Father Bernard celebrated Highmass, and Father Peter delivered a German sermon, recalling events of earlier days and congratulating the parish on their achievements. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon the bishop blessed the bells, giving to the large one of 800 lbs. the name "Augustine," to the second one of 400 lbs. the name "Gabriel," to the third one of 300 lbs. the name "Raphael," and to the fourth one of 130 lbs. the name "Ave Maria." Sponsors at the blessing were Mr. and Mrs. August Breker, Mrs. and Mrs. Henry Nordick, Mr. Bernard Tondorf and Mrs. Lange; Mr. and Mrs. A. Schmitz, Mr. and Mrs. N. Hemges, Mr. and Mrs. J. Brei.

In January, 1913, Abbot Bruno appointed Father Joseph pastor of Engelfeld and assigned to him the mission of St. Gregor and St. Martin, while Father Bernard remained pastor of Watson and the missions of St. Oswald, Carmel, and St. Ansem. Soon after his appointment Father Joseph took steps to erect a parish house and in June, the building was sufficiently completed to enable him to take up residence at Engelfeld.

Days of joy for Engelfeld were August 16-19, 1913, when Bishop Pascal blessed the new church and confirmed 61 boys and girls from Engelfeld, St. Gregor and St. Martin. The bishop, accompanied by Prior Peter, arrived by train on Saturday, August 16. He was met by Father Joseph, a squadron of horsemen, the Engelfeld band, a group of girls dressed in white, and the parishioners. His carriage was escorted to the rectory, where the prelate donned his episcopal robes. The bells rang joyfully as he was conducted into the church, where he was officially received, and Benediction of the the Blessed Sacrament was given. On Sunday, August 17, the Bishop was led in procession to the Church amid the thunderous sound of mortars and the ringing of the bells. After the dedication of the church Father Joseph celebrated a Highmass *coram pontifice*, Father Peter delivering the German sermon. At 3 o'clock the bishop administered Confirmation and gave an inspiring address. Mr. and Mrs. August Breker acted as sponsors at the Confirmation. Next morning the Bishop blessed the rectory.

Father Joseph remained at Engelfeld till November, 1922, when Abbot Michael appointed him pastor of St. Ann's Church at Annaheim. Father Marcellus was named his successor, but he resided at Watson and attended Engelfeld and St. Oswald from there until October, 1923, when he took up residence in Engelfeld. From that time he also had charge of St. Gregor. On May 27, 1923, at a time when there was no resident priest at Engelfeld, lightning struck the church, causing

some damage to the tower and ceiling. During his pastorate Father Marcellus made extensive renovations in the church and enlarged the winter chapel.

Engelfeld is proud to have given a priest, Father Aloysius Hermges, O.S.B., to St. Peter's Colony. He was ordained on June 29, 1928, and celebrated his first solemn Mass at Engelfeld on July 8, 1926. The newly-ordained priest was led in procession from the parish house to the church, and at the altar imparted his first blessing to the congregation. Father Joseph, former pastor of Engelfeld, was assistant priest and preached the sermon in German and Father Matthew in English. Next day Father Aloysius celebrated a solemn Requiem Mass for his deceased father and relatives.

Although seven parishes that were founded in 1903 — Leofeld, St. Benedict, Muenster, Annaheim, Marysburg, Fulda and Engelfeld — celebrated their silver jubilee conjointly at Muenster on June 27, 28, and 29, 1928, the parish of Engelfeld selected a special day, Sunday, October 28, 1928, to commemorate that event. Abbot Severin celebrated a Pontifical Highmass with Father Bernard as deacon, Father Aloysius as subdeacon, and Father Marcellus as master of ceremonies. Father Bernard preached in German on the Kingship of Christ and briefly reviewed the history of the parish. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon Father Abbot officiated at Benediction and afterwards blessed the enlarged winter chapel.

Father Marcellus was pastor of Engelfeld until the middle of August, 1931, when he was assigned to the parish of Muenster and Father Leo Ojdowski, was placed in charge. On Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 1935, Father Leo became very ill after his first Mass, but managed to say a second Mass after which he suffered a hemorrhage and lost consciousness. Examination disclosed cancer of the liver and he died in St. Michael's Hospital, Cudworth, on July 11, 1936. The parish was served for a time from Muenster until Father Matthew became pastor. He remained here until August, 1939, when he was replaced by Father Stephen Mohocko, O.S.B., whose pastorate lasted until September, 1943. Father Matthew was again appointed pastor and was given charge also of St. Martin's Mission. On July 1, 1947, Father Matthew was appointed pastor of St. Ann's Church, Annaheim, to succeed Father Joseph, who had died two months previously. He retained his charge of St. Martin's Mission, and Father Marcellus returned to Engelfeld.

Worthy of recording is the Katholikentag of St. Peter's Colony held at Engelfeld on July 13 and 14, 1926. On the first day Prior Peter celebrated a solemn High Mass with Fathers Matthew and Theodore as deacon and subdeacon. Speeches were given by Mr. B. Bens, district president of the Volksverein, Mr. Anton Stadelmann, vice-president of the Volksverein, and Mr. William Steiner, mayor of Engelfeld. Addresses were given also by Fathers Marcellus, Hilland, O.M.I., and Peter. Present were also Fathers Bernard Ueberberg, O.M.I., Provincial of the Oblate Fathers, August Kierdorf, O.M.I., general secretary of the Volksverein, L. Gabriel, O.M.I., Joseph Sittenauer, Matthias, Lawrence, and Leo. On the second day Father Ueberberg offered a solemn Requiem for the deceased members of the Volksverein, and Fathers Hilland and Gabriel assisted him as deacon and subdeacon. Father Kierdorf gave an impressive address on the Catholic Lay Apostolate. The bands from Engelfeld and Lake Lenore were in attendance, children of Engelfeld gave a performance, and the Theatrical Club from Muenster played "Rosa von Tannenburg."

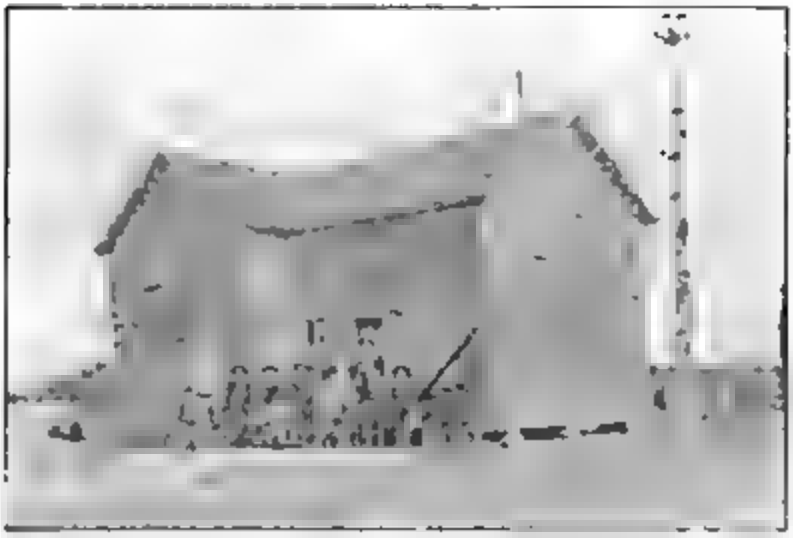
At least three young ladies of the parish of Watson and one from the parish of Engelfeld have dedicated their lives to God in the Ursuline Order at Bruno.

St. George's Church, Naicam

Approximately 20 miles north of Watson the town of Naicam came into existence when the C P R. line was constructed through Watson from Lanigan to Melfort The roadbed from Lanigan to Naicam was finished shortly before Christmas in 1919, and the rails were laid in 1920. Freight and construction trains operated on the new line in 1921, but passenger service was not inaugurated till April 1, 1922, when bi-weekly service was begun. Even then it took and hour and 50 minutes to travel from Watson to Naicam. When the *Naicam Progress* began publication in July, 1922 the town was one of few which could boast of a newspaper before having a railway station. Naicam has a beautiful location on section 2. township 40 range 18, and has a population of about 500, the majority of whom are non-Catholics

Father Chrysostom Hoffmann, O S B , who pioneer days visited the most isolated mission posts even outside St Peter's Colony, going as far east as Paswegin, Wadena and Kuroki and as far north as LacVert and Pleasantdale, was not slow in recognizing the importance of the new town of Naicam With the blessing of his superiors he set out to organize a new parish there On May 10, 1925, he celebrated the first Mass in the town hall. Although the choir had but a short time to practice, hymns were sung during Mass to the accompaniment of an organ. During the service, which a number of non-Catholics attended, Father Chrysostom spoke of the importance of religion and of the Catholic Church After Mass a meeting was held, and the following men were elected as a church-building committee: D J Granda, T Plante and Charles Schumacher In the afternoon Father Chrysostom baptised Harold Joseph, the son of Mr and Mrs. Romeo Tetrault, Mr and Mrs. D. J Granda acting as sponsors. The baptism took place in the parlor of the hotel owned by Mr Granda and was the first baptism administered in the new parish. Holy Mass was again celebrated in the town hall on Sunday, June 14. At the service on December 13, 1925, a collection was taken up to buy a site for the new church and to purchase an organ St George was chosen as the patron saint of the parish, for on his feast the first Mass was offered at Naicam. At a meeting of the parish on January 31, 1926, committees were appointed to canvas the district and to collect for the building fund. Six acres of land were purchased on the northwest corner of the town, and Father Chrysostom reported that $.0,000 would be required to erect a suitable church and rectory on the property At a box social on January 19 the sum of $1.9 was realized and added to the building fund

Near the end of June, 1926, the erection of the church began with Messrs Ruest and Sons as contractors, and by the end of August it was practically completed. The first divine service held in the new church was a Highmass by Father Chrysostom on Christmas night Another Highmass was offered at 10 o'clock in the morning and again on the following day, which was a Sunday Since there was no such service within a radius of 18 miles, people came from all sides, and the new church was filled to capacity Father Chrysostom was so well pleased with Naicam that he decided to leave the solitude of Beauchamp and take up residence there Two weeks before Christmas in 1926 he began to move his personal belongings St George's Church was solemnly dedicated by Abbot Severin on June 15, 1927 Before bestowing this blessing he blessed and laid the cornerstone. In his sermon he explained the significance of these ceremonies, saying that Christ is the cornerstone of every Catholic church and that everything centers around the altar and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass After the dedication Father Chrysostom offered a Highmass *coram pontifice* Father Abbot's assistants were Fathers Rudolph, Marcellus, and Theodore. The Engelfeld choir with their director and organist, Mr John Schwinghammer, sang at the sacred function. After the service the parish festival was held, with the Lake Lenore band contributing to the festive spirit. In the afternoon Father Lawrence of Fulda and Father Leo of Bruno paid a short visit to Naicam. The people of Naicam, including non-Catholics, co-operated so well with Father Chrysostom that by the time the church was blessed half of the debt was paid



Kavanaugh's house where first Mass was said.

Holy Family Log Church, Bonnechere

On Saturday, July 2, 1928, Father Chrysostom observed the silver jubilee of his priesthood. He had not planned any celebration, and his parishioners were not aware of this anniversary. Great was his surprise when, despite the muddy roads caused by a heavy rain the day before, an auto drew up before the church shortly before 10 o'clock and Father Abbot, Father Matthew, and a cleric from Muenster stepped out. The visitors urged the unassuming pastor to sing a solemn High Mass on such an occasion. Abbot Severin preached on the power and dignity of the Catholic priest and solemn Benediction closed the divine service. At the dinner in Mr. Grandia's hotel the parishioners extended congratulations to the jubilarian and presented a purse.

Father Chrysostom's hobby was the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers, and this hobby he exercised on the church property, where he had planted no less than 225 trees of various species, including oak.

On July 28, 1929, a parish meeting decided to build a frame rectory to cost $3,000. Mr. David Rust, a member of the parish and the contractor for the church, was given the contract. By the end of September, 1929, the house was completed.

On Sunday, September 15, 1929, five boys and six girls of the parish received their first Holy Communion. It was the first time that such a ceremony had taken place in the church.

In the summer of 1929 Father Chrysostom visited his aged mother at Manchester, New Hampshire, and on his return he brought her with him as far as Watson, where she remained at the rectory until the parish house was completed. She moved to Naicam in December and kept house for Father Chrysostom until she died on March 19, 1931, at the age of 83 years. Before her death she had arranged to donate her savings of $4,861.19 to the Abbot Bruno scholarship for the education of priests.

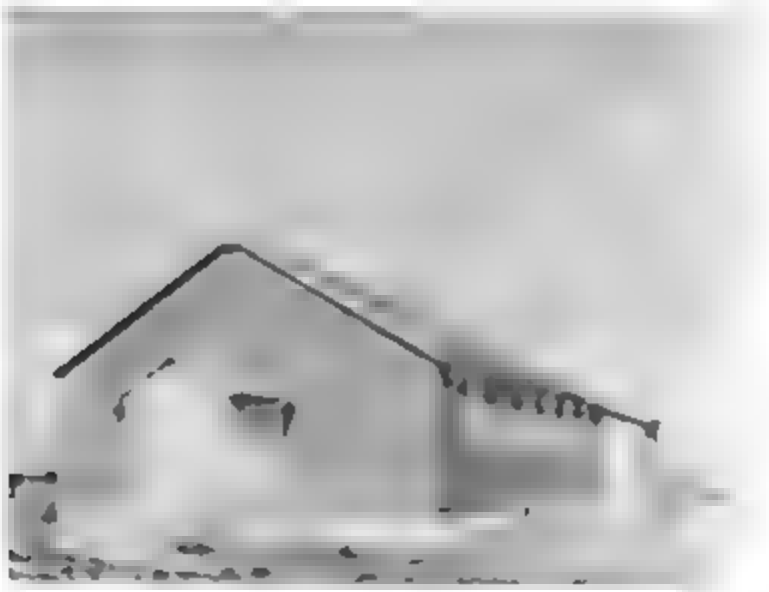
On June 14, 1932, St. George's Church was struck by lightning. Mr. M. Knudson, noticing smoke rising from the southeast corner of the building, gave the alarm and with the help of others quickly extinguished the blaze. The damage did not exceed a hundred dollars.

Abbot Severin visited Naicam again on September 15, 1935 and confirmed 35 members of the parish. Father Chrysostom, celebrated a High Mass, after which Prior Peter and Father Aloysius of Muenster assisted Father Abbot in the confirmation.

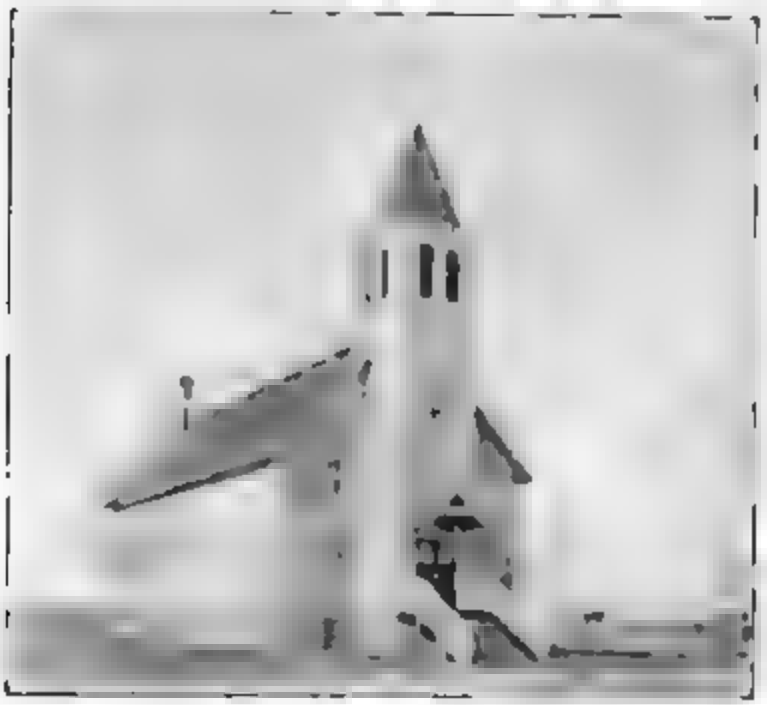
On week days and on the first and third Sunday of every month Father Chrysostom offered Mass at Naicam, on the second and fourth Sunday at St. Martin's Mission, and on the fifth Sunday (when one occurred) at the Holy Family Mission at Beauchamp. He continued this practice until [illegible] illness forced him to undergo an operation in St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, in 1939. At the end of October he returned to Naicam in a much weakened condition after an absence of more than two months. His burden was lightened somewhat when St. Martin's Mission was placed in charge of the pastor of Engelfeld. Father Chrysostom returned to Muenster in October, 1942, to live in the monastery.

While Father Chrysostom was staying at Muenster, Fathers from the Abbey, among them Fathers Cosmas and Edward, attended St. George's Parish on Sundays and holy days of obligation. On August 29, 1943, after a Highmass sung by Father Edward, Abbot Severin confirmed 19 children of the parish. On this occasion Father Chrysostom was present and was glad to see his parishioners again. In September, 1943, he felt strong enough to take charge of the parish again, and since then he has visited it regularly every Sunday, going there [illegible] Friday and returning to Muenster on Monday.

A son of the parish, Father Andre Florentin O.M.I., an alumnus of St. Peter's College, was ordained on June 29, 1941, and shortly afterwards was appointed missionary for the Indians at Crane River, Manitoba. In the summer of 1942 he visited his home parish where he celebrated Mass and preached.



Present Holy Family Church, north of Bronx corner of Lakeside



Church of St. George, Panama

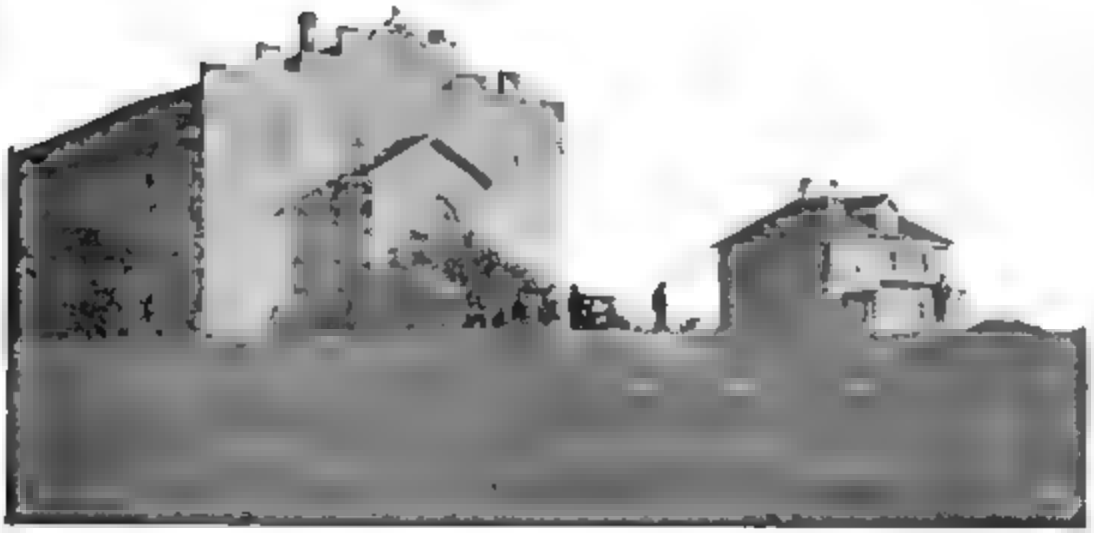
Bruno and Peterson

The first Holy Mass in the district which is now St Bruno's Parish was said by Father Meinrad Seitermann, O S B, pastor of Leofeld, on November 5, 1903, at the house of Mr Peter Hoffmann in township 39, range 25. Since that time the district has been known as St. Bruno's Parish. The name was chosen to honour Abbot Bruno Doerfler who labored so indefatigably at the time of the founding of St. Peter's Monastery and St Peter's Colony, first as priest and explorer, then as Prior and finally as first Abbot. The name Bruno was appropriately chosen for another reason. It was Father Bruno who first set foot in that region on September 23, 1902. He was on his second inspection trip in the company of Messrs H J Haskamp and John Hoeschen, traveling east from Hanley and Dundurn to the Government Trail and as far as Mount Carmel. Prior Alfred intended to call the place St. Bruno, but since there was already a place by that name in the province of Quebec,, the Dominion Government suggested that duplication of the name be avoided and the place be called simply Bruno. The actual founder, however of St Bruno's Parish was Father Chrysostom, who on on July 18, 1904, said the first Holy Mass in what is now the town of Bruno, in the store of Mr William Smith.

Divine Providence has many ways of providing for God's children, and sometimes these ways border on the humorous. A white mare belonging to St Peter's Monastery led to the founding of St. Bruno's Parish. On June 26, 1904, Father Chrysostom had services in the little log church at Dead Moose Lake and drove back to Mr Lawrence Lundberg's house for dinner. Parishioners unhitched his horse "Kate" and tied her to a pole in the stable. When Father looked for his horse after the meal, it was gone; only a piece of rope dangled from the pole. Dissatisfied for some reason the horse had taken "French leave" and went a distance of twenty miles to the home of Mr. Joseph Meyer, who homesteaded a few miles north of the spot where Bruno now lies. Monastery teams frequently stopped overnight at Mr Meyer's place on their wearisome trips to and from Rosthern, and "Kate" evidently remembered the good treatment she had received there. It took about a week before Father Chrysostom discovered where his disobedient horse had wandered. On learning its whereabouts, he set out to recover it. After saying Mass on July 3 in St. Bernard's Mission (now disbanded) he drove with Mr. Gottfried Schaeffer to Joseph Meyer's place. The new roadbed of the C.N.R. proved a good highway (the steel was not yet laid), and they made the trip in record time. On the way back they stopped at Mr. William Smith's store, the only building in the place where Bruno now stands. Here Father Chrysostom was told about a large number of settlers in this part of the Colony and that they were all eager to have Holy Mass offered in their midst. On his return to the monastery he laid the matter before Prior Alfred, who decided that a regular mission station be started and requested Father Chrysostom to hold services there on the Mondays after the Sundays he had services at St Bernard's Mission. On July 18, 1904, the first Holy Mass was celebrated by Father Chrysostom at St Bruno's Mission in the store of William Smith. Mass was offered subsequently at Bruno every second Monday. At that time there were about 24 families.

In the fall of 1903 the land around the Bruno district had not yet been surveyed and laid out in quarter sections. The settlers in the district expected the C.N.R. to establish a station on section 16, township 38, range 25, and urged Prior Alfred to have one of his priests take possession of some land in order to obtain so-called squatter's rights and thus secure property on which the future church could be built. Heeding this advice, Father Chrysostom with the aid of Joseph Meyer made some improvements on the southwest quarter of section 16 in October, 1903, and after the land was surveyed, this quarter was granted Father Chrysostom as a homestead. As was expected, the C.N.R. selected that quarter for a railway station and a townsite. The company requested Father Chrysostom to turn over his homestead to them and granted him some compensation. If he had not

Old St. Bruno Church. Fr. Chrysostom at right



St. Bruno Church and Rectory, shortly after completion.

consented, the C.N.R. would probably have established the station of Bruno farther west. With part of the money from the sale of the homestead Prior Alfred purchased five acres of land on May 7, 1905, from Mr. Anton Koenig, who donated another five acres. On the same day Prior Alfred held services at Bruno.

On Monday, September 26, 1904, and again on Monday, October 10, Father Peter held services at the mission. On September 26 the first trustees were were elected: Herman Koenig, Theodore Lummerding and Joseph Meyer. William Smith was appointed treasurer. At that time Father Chrysostom was replacing Father Meinrad for a month at Leofeld. The first Highmass at Bruno was celebrated by Father Chrysostom on Sunday, January 15, 1905, in the store of William Smith. Frater Placid Wolf, O.S.B., a cleric of St. Peter's Priory, accompanied him on that trip and did the singing. From that day Bruno had services on Sunday. Shortly after the first Highmass a choir was organized so that from the summer of 1905 the men's choir of Bruno sang regularly. The first parish festival was held on September 3, 1906, and netted the sum of $260.

On June 4, 1905, Prior Alfred again visited Bruno to preside at a meeting which decided to build a log church 20 by 40 feet. Work was begun immediately, and on July 9 Father Chrysostom was able to celebrate the first Highmass in it. On August 18, 1905, Bishop Pascal, assisted by Fathers Alfred and Chrysostom, blessed the new church, dedicating it to St. Bruno, and confirmed 10 children. On his second visit on June 9, 1910 Bishop Pascal confirmed 44. Prior Bruno sang the Highmass and preached in German. Present in the sanctuary were the pastor, Father Chrysostom, Father Matthias of Leofeld, and Father Benedict of St. Benedict. The bishop preached in English, and both he and Prior Bruno stressed the importance of a good Catholic school. The third time that Bishop Pascal administered Confirmation at Bruno was August 4, 1913, when 49 persons were confirmed. Sponsors on this occasion were Mr. Anton Koenig and Mrs. Catherine Smith. On August 1, 1920, Abbot Michael Ott, O.S.B., confirmed 90 persons from Bruno and St. Maurus' Mission at Dana. For a long time the the mission at Dana was in charge of Father Leo, who as late as May 20, 1921, administered first Holy Communion to 15 children there.

Fully recognizing the importance of a good Catholic education, Father Chrysostom moved to Bruno temporarily on Sepetember 1, 1906, and opened a parish school with an enrollment of 11. He took up residence in an annex attached to the east side of the church. By the end of the month the number of children in school had increased to 27. In October of the same year Mr. W. F. Hargarten became the teacher and continued in that capacity for two years. In the years following, Miss Kramer of Regina, Mr. J. Adam, Michael Pitzel and Henry Mueller were engaged as teachers. In April 1914, Mr. Honish went to Muenster and asked Abbot Bruno to arrange that the Ursuline Nuns take charge of the parish school. His request was granted, and on April 19, 1914, Mother Clara [illegible] over the school, other Sisters arrived later. The annex to the church, which Father Chrysostom used as a residence, was renovated and given to the Sisters, while a rectory consisting of one room and an attic was built. A new annex was added to the log church to give the Sisters more convenience and a little chapel of their own.

Father Chrysostom administered the first baptism at Bruno on November 7, 1904, to Gertrude Hoffmann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hoffmann. The first funeral was that of a child of Wenzeslaus Koenig, the child died on October 8, 1905 and was buried next day. The first wedding solemnized in St. Bruno's Church was that of Thomas L. Young and Mary Hessdorfer on November 6, 1907. On the feast of Corpus Christi, May 30, 1907, 7 boys and 5 girls received their first Holy Communion. On that day Father Chrysostom sang a Highmass, Father Peter gave the sermon, Vespers were held in the afternoon and the first communicants were invested with the scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. On October 14, 1906, the Confraternity of Christian Mothers was established, and a short time later the Altar's And Society. In January, 1906, there remained a parish debt of only $50.

On January 1, 1907, Father Chrysostom took up permanent residence at Bruno, and St. Bruno's Mission then became a parish. At first he lived in his one-room house and took his meals at the home of Mrs. Catherine Smith and her son William. He devoted his spare time to the planting of trees and

flowers, and to this day many of his trees remain as a monument of his work

It was not long before the log church at Bruno proved too small. After Highmass on October 14, 1906, a meeting of the parish was held, at which it was decided that by next spring each homesteader was to haul stones for the construction of a basement church. The stones were hauled, but the construction was delayed until the summer of 1911 after Prior Bruno had celebrated a High Mass on August 17, 1911. Bishop Pascal blessed the cornerstone of the new building, and on Christmas, Father Chrysostom held two Highmasses and one low Mass in it. The dimensions of the basement church were 101 feet by 50 feet, and the interior height was 12 feet.

Father George Scheffold, O.S.B., preached the first mission at Bruno from July 11 to 18, 1915, and on the closing day the first Solemn Mass was celebrated in the parish, Father Matthias being the celebrant, and Fathers Chrysostom and George deacon and subdeacon.

After Father Chrysostom had been pastor of St. Bruno's Parish for 14 years, Abbot Bruno appointed him subprior of the Abbey and pastor of the Muenster parish. During his pastorate he baptized 418 children, (60 in 1916) blessed 55 marriages, and had 67 funerals. Annual Holy Communions had increased to 17,000. When he left Bruno there was a parish dept of only $400. In his earlier days at Bruno Father Chrysostom frequently visited the missions of Dana, Peterson, St. Bede's Mission at Meacham, and others. During Father Chrysostom's pastorate an epidemic of diphtheria resulting in a number of deaths invaded Bruno. The pastor and his flock vowed an annual procession and public prayers—and the scourge ceased.

On May 29, 1917, Abbot Bruno appointed Father Leo Ojdowski, O.S.B., as pastor of Bruno. At that time the town of Bruno had 300 inhabitance, and the parish comprised 143 families and 18 bachelors. Shortly after Father Leo's arrival the parish erected a new rectory of interlocking tile from the Bruno Clay Works costing $5,500. The two-story house 34 by 36 feet had nine rooms, a veranda on the south side, a full basement and was ready for occupancy by winter.

The year 1918 saw the erection of an $8,000 parochial school, a two-storey structure 28 by 58 feet, also of tile. Situated east of the church and the rectory, it contained four classrooms, a school chapel and a full basement.

On Saturday, March, 2, 1919, Bishop Pascal came to Bruno, said Mass in the chapel of the Ursuline Nuns next morning and afterwards attended the Highmass celebrated by Prior Peter in the church. Father Leo assisted the bishop. Father Peter preached. After Highmass the bishop, vested in episcopal robes, was led to the new school and blessed it. After this ceremony Benedict Hargarten a pupil of the school, presented the following address to the bishop: "We children of St. Bruno's Parish School have the great honour of seeing Your Lordship in our midst on the occasion of the blessing of our new school of which we are justly proud. We highly esteem this honour and are very pleased at your Lordship's taking so much interest in the education of children in imitation of the Divine Lover of the little ones. We promise hence to do our very best to develop our intellectual qualities, above all to train our character and to acquire a profound knowledge of our holy religion, so that we may grow up loyal Canadians, but first and foremost true children of our Holy Mother Church. With these promises we combine our most fervent wishes and prayers that Your Lordship may labor in health many years as bishop of Prince Albert for the welfare of our holy Church and the faithful. We further trust that Your Lordship will always keep a little corner in your episcopal heart for the children of St. Bruno's School." (After finishing school at Bruno Benedict Hargarten attended St. Peter's College, obtained his doctor's degree at the University of Edmonton, practised for a number of years in St. Peter's Colony, and is now a physician and surgeon in Saskatoon.) In his reply to the address the bishop said "The training of the mind must be perfected by the training of the will and the heart. Training of the mind alone may produce clever writers, great mathematicians, astute lawyers, smart cheaters and consummate criminals, but will not develop characters. Religion is an absolute necessity in education. Without religion there cannot be real virtue, honesty, charity, loyalty." The children of Bruno, he added, might call themselves happy to have such good teachers as the Ursuline Nuns.

The new school was opened on April 2, 1919 with Mother Antonia as teacher in classroom I

Mother Agatha in classroom 2, and Miss Helen Kopp in Classroom 3. Soon afterwards classroom 4 was also filled.

The year 1919 also witnessed the erection of the motherhouse of the Ursulines in Bruno. The parishioners assisted the Sisters greatly by doing the excavating and the hauling of materials for the new convent and academy, and pledged the sum of $5,000 for the project. Excavating was started already in the summer of 1918, and on June 1919, shortly after Abbot Bruno's death, the cornerstone of the three storey building, 44 by 100 feet was blessed and laid by Prior Peter. The contractors for the building were the Bonas Brothers. On November 9, 1919, the building was blessed by Abbot Michael, assisted by Fathers Leo and Fridolin. The three bells of the parish church, were also blessed that day by the Abbot.

The growth of the Bruno parish was very rapid. By 1921 no less than 789 baptisms had been administered, while the number of marriages had increased to 98 and the burials to about 100. When the basement church was constructed during Father Chrysostom's pastorate, it was considered much too large, but by 1921 it proved too small. At a meeting of the parish on February 2[illegible], it was decided to remove the hall built above the basement church and to erect an enlarged superstructure to serve as church, the basement being parish hall. Building began soon after under the direction of Messrs. Walter van Bergen and Paul Honatzis, the contractors.

The $12,000 church was blessed by Abbot Michael on October 16, 1921. After the blessing ceremonies Prior Peter celebrated solemn Highmass with Fathers Leo and Marcellus as deacon and [illegible] parish, as master of ceremonies. Prior Peter, the celebrant of the Mass, preached in German, reviewing briefly the history of the parish, and Father Abbot gave the English sermon, praising the parish for its accomplishments during the preceding years. Dinner was served in the basement, and in the evening a German play was staged. On that day $2,000 was raised.

When Father Leo visited his home in Pittsburgh in July, 1920, Father Marcellus replaced him a few months, attending also the missions at Carmel, Conception and for a time St. Scholastica. During the summer of 1921 Father Marcellus went to the United States for an operation, and shortly after his return, was appointed pastor of Watson.

Two celebrations were held in Bruno in 1922, the general convention of the Volksverein on April 5 and 6, and the Katholikentag on July [illegible] and 26. Abbot Michael, then General Director of the Volksverein, celebrated a Pontifical Highmass on April 5. Prior Peter was the assistant priest,, Father Joseph, O.S.B., and Father Blank, S.J., of Regina, were deacons of honour; Father Dominic, O. S. B., and Father Bieler, O.M.I., were deacon and subdeacon of the Mass, and Father Peter Habets, O.M.I., delivered the sermon. Next day Prior Peter celebrated a Requiem Highmass for the deceased members of the Volksverein. Delegates from many places in Saskatchewan were present, especially from Regina. Mr. William Bens gave an address on the duties of a Catholic layman, and Abbot Michael praised the work of Mr. W. F. Hargarten in supplying Catholic schools in the provinces with good Catholic teachers.

At the Katholikentag on July 25 Abbot Michael pontificated again, and gave the sermon, in which he stressed the importance of Catholic schools and the blessings emanating from them, and imparted the Apostolic Blessing. During his recent visit to Rome he had received permission from the Holy Father to impart this blessing to the people of his jurisdiction. More than a hundred school trustees from the Colony were present and attended a special meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Hargarten. On the second day of the Katholikentag Father Leo celebrated a Highmass, and in the afternoon an imposing parade under the direction of Mr. Anton Gasper marched through the town. Various groups of the Volksverein carried banners, and the bands of Annaheim and Bruno played. When the parade returned to the open space east of the church, Father Blank, S.J. delivered an instructive address on secret societies and their dangers.

Bruno was again chosen for the district's Katholikentag on August 21, 1927 which opened with a solemn Highmass by Father Wilfrid Hergott, O.S.B., and Abbot Severin preached. "To be a good member of a Catholic society one must be above all a good Catholic," he said, adding that unity among the children of the Church was necessary, especially in these perilous times. Later in the day Prior Peter, the president of the Volksverein, ex

pressed his pleasure at the good attendance, and Mr. James Hogan, M.L.A. spoke on immigration, stressing the importance of selecting good Catholic settlers. Father August Kerdorf, O.M.I., the general secretary for the immigration department of the Volksverein, spoke on "The Volksverein for the Catholics of Germany," and Mr. Bernard Bott spoke on "The Volksverein and its problems in Canada and especially in Saskatchewan."

The Parish of Bruno again was the host for a Katholikentag on August 2, 1931. Abbot Severin celebrated a pontifical Highmass, and Prior Peter preached in German and English, taking as his subjects "The Papacy" and "St. Elizabeth of Thuenngia," for that year the Church was observing the 700th anniversary of the death of St. Elizabeth. In the afternoon Father Abbot gave an address on the Third Council of Ephesus, which had defined that the Blessed Virgin is truly the Mother of God. The council was held in 431, just 1500 years previously. Baron von Klopp-Vogelsang in his address treated the papal encyclicals "Rerum Novarum" and "Quadragesimo Anno." This was also a jubilee address, for it was in 1891, forty years previously, that Pope Leo XIII had issued the encyclical "Rerum Novarum." Father Marcel has delivered another jubilee address on St. Anthony of Padua, who died in 1231.

Three sons of St. Bruno's Parish are priests, Benedictines of St. Peter's Abbey. The first, Father Wilfrid Hergott, was ordained by Bishop Joseph Prud'homme of Prince Albert at Tramping Lake, Saskatchewan, on July 27, 1924 and celebrated his first solemn Highmass at Bruno on August 17, assisted by Father Fridolin as assistant priest, and Fathers Casimir and Chrysostom as deacon and subdeacon. Abbot Michael occupied the throne in the sanctuary, and preached on the dignity and powers of the priesthood.

Father Alphonse Ludwig was ordained at Muenster, June 29, 1932, by Bishop Prud'homme and celebrated his first solemn Highmass at Bruno on July 3, 1932. Abbot Severin, vested in Cappa Magna, presided at the throne and Father Chrysostom, who had baptized the celebrant 27 years previously, was the assistant priest, and Fathers Bernard and Wilfrid were deacon and subdeacon. Father Bernard preached in English and in Ger-

On June 23, 1935, the third priest from the parish celebrated his first solemn Highmass, here, Father Norbert Schwinghammer, who had been ordained on June 10 at St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, where he completed his studies. Abbot Severin delivered the festive sermon and Prior Peter was the assistant priest, Fathers Wilfrid, and Alphonse, deacon and subdeacon. In the afternoon Father Norbert carried the Blessed Sacrament in procession, and gave Benediction, and latter blessed a new statue of St. Benedict.

In July, 1927, after a pastorate of 10 years, Father Leo was appointed pastor of Muenster, and Father Bernard succeeded him here. A farewell celebration for Father Leo was held on July 17 when Messrs. John Bouraael and Anton Gasper gave speaches expressing the regret of the parish at losing their beloved pastor and a number of valuable gifts were presented as tokens of gratitude for his work in Bruno.

About a month before Father Leo's departure, Bishop Prud'homme of Prince Albert came to Bruno to bless the marriage of Mr. James Kelly of Humboldt and Miss Veronica Schwinghammer. The bridegroom was a friend and former classmate of the bishop.

On May 27, 1931, Father Bernard celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination. At 9:30 the jubilarian went in procession from the parish house to the church, where he offered a solemn Highmass. Fourth degree Knights of Columbus accompanied him as a guard of honour. In the sanctuary were Abbot Severin, vested in Cappa Magna, and the Hon. Dr. J. M. Uhrich, a Knight of St. Gregory. Father Bernard was assisted by Prior Peter, assistant priest; Father Leo deacon; Fa-Father Casimir, subdeacon and Father Abbot preached. The Bruno band, to which Father Bernard always devoted much care, played during the procession and again at the Te Deum.

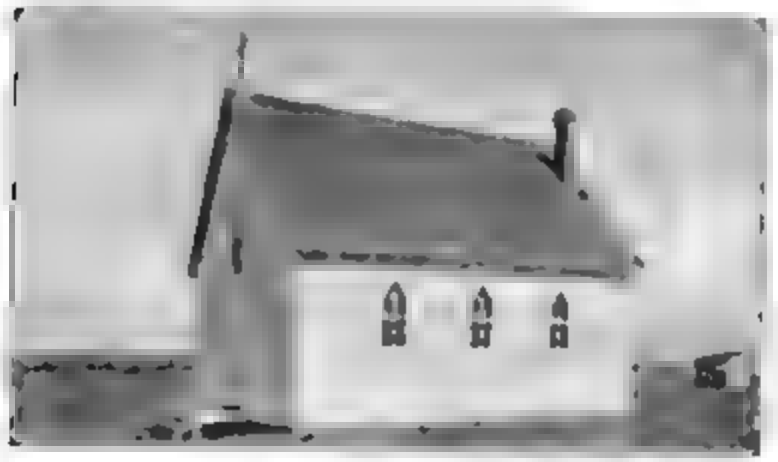
To honour the members of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers at Bruno, who celebrated their silver jubilee on February 7, 1932, Abbot Severin sang a Highmass and preached a sermon. During 1931 the baptisms in the parish numbered 44, the marriage 13, and the funerals 11. Approximately 300 children were receiving religious instruction, and 30,000 Holy Communion were distributed.

Father Bernard made extensive improvements to the church and parish house, erected a shrine in honor of Our Lady, planted additional trees especially around the shrine, and had the cemetery put in good condition. A blow for him and the parish was the fire in the church on January 21 1950. During the night a fire started near the stoker and ate its way to the choir loft and through the roof at the southwest corner. The building was saved through the efforts of 150 men from the town, but the intense heat and the smoke caused heavy damage to the walls and furnishings. Shannon Brothers of Saskatoon undertook to repair the damage, renovating the church and the basement so completely that they are now in much better condition than they were before. During this work Mass was celebrated in the chapel of the Ursuline Convent.

On June 29, 1951, Father Aloysius Schretlen, S.J., celebrated his first solemn Highmass in the renovated church, in the presence of his grandmother, Mrs. van Bergen. Father Bernard was his assistant and preached the sermon while Fathers Martin and Albert were deacon and subdeacon.

On July, 1952, Father Bernard celebrated a solemn Highmass to commemorate his twenty-fifth anniversary as pastor of St. Bruno's Parish. Father Martin, part-time assistant of Father Bernard, served as deacon, Father Jerome as subdeacon and Prior Peter preached. A parish banquet and a program took place in the afternoon followed by Benediction.

Present St. Bruno Church.



Old St. Agnes Church, Potomac.

Present Church of St. Agnes

St. Agnes Parish, Peterson

While pastor of St Bruno's Parish, Father Chrysostom visited the locality which now forms the Mission of St. Agnes, and celebrated the first Holy Mass in the house of Ephrem Dauvin on May 4, 1909. He again had Holy Mass there on January 11, and 12, and on April 30, 1910. On August 18, 1910, he said Holy Mass at Mr Gursky's place, northeast of Viscount, near the site of the present St John's Church, which was built later by Father Schaefer When the Grand Trunk-Pacific Railway constructed the line through the western part of St. Peter's Colony in 1911, a station was laid out on section 20, township 37, range 26, and the name of Peterson was given to the village which came into existence. Then Holy Mass was celebrated at intervals a few times in the house of Mr Tremel in the village, and later on northeast of Peterson in the more spacious house of Mr Louis Julé. On August 28, 1921, Father Chrysostom was able to sing the first High Mass in Mr Julé's house. Singers from Meacham went to Peterson for the occasion, and aided the location

With the encouragement of Father Chrysostom, a church was built in Peterson, and completed far enough to have the first High Mass in it on August 24, 1924. St Agnes' Mission was attended once a month from Muenster, and later on from about the year 1940, twice a month. A number of Fathers successively went to Peterson, among them Fathers John, Paul and Wilfrid. In the winter of 1930 Father John was given full charge of the mission. Succeeding pastors were: Father Cosmas to 1936; Father Bernard, 1936-37; Father Alphonse, 1937-40; Father Luke, 1940-42; Father William, 1942-45; Father Philip from 1945 to the present time

On July 20, 1930, the first Solemn High Mass was celebrated in St. Agnes' Church. On this occasion Father John, united in the bonds of matrimony Peter B. DeMong and Miss Gertrude Wurm Rt. Rev. Joseph Wurm, Vicar General of the diocese of Crookston, Minnesota, and an uncle of the bride, celebrated the solemn High Mass. Father Emil Luetticke, also of Minnesota, and a cousin of the bride, was deacon of the Mass, and Father John subdeacon

Another important feast was celebrated on Aug. 15, 1930, when Abbot Severin blessed the church, and celebrated a Pontifical High Mass with the assistance of Father John and Fr Alphonse. During the Mass a number of the children made their solemn Communion, Father Abbot preached, and conferred upon the children the sacrament of Confirmation

Between December 4 and 8, 1932, Father Wilfrid preached a well attended retreat here, despite the severe cold that prevailed. On December 8, feast of the Immaculate Conception, five children of the mission made their first Holy Communion. The following year, 1933, the Catholic Women's League was established in the Mission

St. Agnes' Church was too small to accomodate the crowd that had gathered on Sunday, Aug. 14, 1949, to celebrate the silver jubilee of the church On this occasion six children of the parish received their first Holy Communion, and 21 members of the parish and of the neighboring parish of St Maurus' Dana received the sacrament of Confirmation. Father William, a former pastor, offered the jubilee Mass of thanksgiving, assisted by Father Wilfrid as deacon. Father Norbert as subdeacon and Father Philip, pastor, as master of ceremonies. Before confirming the children, Abbot Severin gave them a beautiful sermon on the efficacy of the Sacraments, with emphasis on the Holy Eucharist Addressing the adults, he emphasized the necessity of imparting a genuine religious instruction to the children in their families.

In 1952 a new church was constructed under the direction of Father Philip, with Mr W Jonas of Muenster as the contractor Much of the labor was donated by members of the mission and by others The trustees during the time of building were Henry Basset, Sr., Yves Jule, and Leo Wurm and other members of the building committee were J. J Felix and John Tremel. The church was blessed on November 9, 1952 by Abbot Severin, assisted by Father Philip, pastor and Father Florian, and the dedication was followed by a votive Mass in honor of St Agnes sung by Father Florian. In his sermon Abbot Severin stressed the importance of the church as a place of worship in the life of a parish

[illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible]

St. Augustine Church, Humboldt

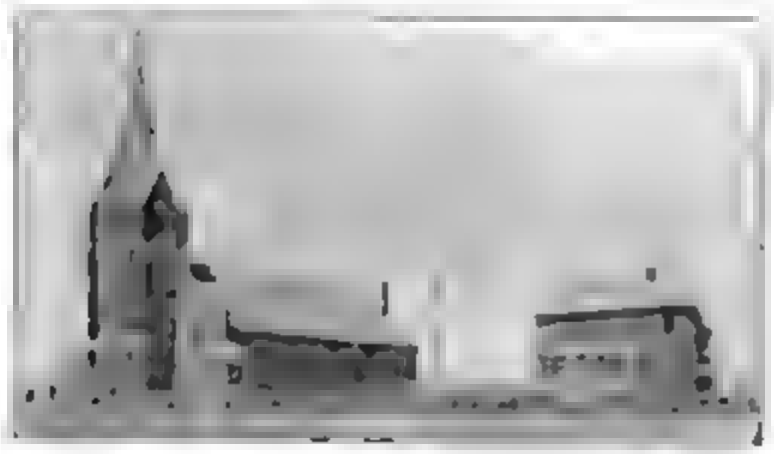
St. Scholastica & Conception, Carmel

The Church in Humboldt had a hard beginning. When the Benedictines arrived in Canada there was no town or village in the whole territory. There were only the two families of John Ecker and Charles Schmidt on homesteads a short distance to the east of the present town of Humboldt. The early settlers did not believe that the location, covered as it was with brush and dotted with sloughs and potholes before the railroad arrived, was suitable for a townsite. That is one reasons why Prior Alfred established the mission of St. Bernard's four miles west, the present Dixon. Even after the railroad reached Humboldt (the first locomotive which reached Muenster, September 1904, bore the number 123) the place still looked uninviting. The next year it had not improved much. In September 1905 two Benedictine Nuns, Mother Cecilia and Sister Louise from St. Joseph's Minn., visited the Colony with a view of establishing a foundation in Saskatchewan. While passing through the present location of Humboldt their conveyance, a democrat wagon, was mired in the mud for two hours. One of the singeltrees broke and had to be replaced with a gun barrel. Prior Alfred and Prior Herman Bergmann, O. S. B., of St. John's Abbey were occupying the front seat of the wagon at the time. This occurred on September 23, and the next day the Sisters returned to Minnesota, deciding not to start a foundation in the colony.

The Canadian Northern Railway, now the Canadian National Railway chose Humboldt as the location for their roundhouse and station. The name Humboldt was taken over from the so-called Humboldt Telegraph Station named by James McKay of Winnipeg in 1875 after the German explorer Alexander von Humboldt who visited South America, Mexico and the United States from 1799 to 1804. This Telegraph station was located a little south of the present town and when the Benedictines arrived in 1903 on their trip to Munster they rested there overnight. It was deserted and in poor repair.

Prior Alfred celebrated the first Mass in Humboldt in 1905, but there is no record of the exact date or place. Presumably it was in the store of the Great Northern Lumber Company which later served as the place of worship. It was located south of the railway tracks, and the new mission acquired two lots there, but this land was sold later when the church was built north of the tracks on its present site. St. Augustine, the apostle of England and Archbishop of Canterbury, was chosen as the patron of the mission. Father Rudolph Palm who had been ordained the preceding year, was given charge of Humboldt Mission, which included the present parish of St. Scholastica and Immaculate Conception Mission south of Carmel. It seems that he also went to Carmel several times to conduct services there. Even before Father Rudolph took charge about $1000 was collected for the erection of a church. A report published in the St. Peter's Bote dated June 3, 1905 said that a post office was authorized for Humboldt and Godfrey Schaeffer was appointed the first postmaster.

On October 15, 1905 Father Rudolph celebrated Mass in the house of Mr. Leo Scheiber, Township 36, Range 22, and established a new mission in that district. It was placed under the patronage of St. Scholastica, the twin sister of St. Benedict. On November 20, 1905 the first marriage took place in the church at Humboldt, when Father Rudolph had the Nuptual Mass for Nicholas Schreiner and Pauline Dinges. A basket social was held in St. Scholastica's Mission April 16, 1906. The parishioners decided to erect a frame church [illegible] x 40 feet during the course of the [illegible] by June 24 of that year the church was sufficiently completed that Father Rudolph held services in it. During the Mass 13 children of the Mission received their first Holy Communion. The debt incurred in building the church amounted to $50. On June 2, 1907 Bishop Pascal paid his first visit to the Mission. Mr. Loroff and Mr. Scheiber drove to Muenster that afternoon in two decorated carriages, conveying the Bishop and his assistants to the Mission. Some distance from the church they were met by a troup of horsemen who led them



Church of St. Augustine and Rectory in 1908, Demolished

Present enlarged Church of St. Augustine.

in procession to the Church, practically the entire parish gathered there to welcome the Bishop. He encouraged and praised the people and told them how he had passed through this part of the country 33 years ago on his way to his Indian Mission. That time he travelled in an ox cart. The Bishop and his party spent the night in the home of Mr. Leo Scheiber and next morning, June 3, a Monday, the Bishop blessed the church and had Mass in it, assisted by Prior Bruno and Father Rudolph. Prior Bruno delivered the sermon and the Bishop confirmed 19 members of the Mission. Father Rudolph celebrated Mass in the Mission of the Immaculate Conception for the first time on November 15, 1906. In that district a considerable number of German settlers emigrating from Russia had taken up homesteads.

After considerable difficulty the Catholic ratepayers of Humboldt were organized and preparations were made for the parochial school. At the general ratepayers meeting, October 15, 1906 Messers. F. Heidgerken, F. I. Hauser, and Albert Ecker were elected trustees. On June 3, 1907 Bishop Pascal stopped here briefly, on the way to Fulda from St. Scholastica, and inspected the new separate school and the block of land Mr. Clement Kohle had donated for the church site on the north side of the town. During this time, from June 1, 1905 to October 1907, Father Rudolph was manager of the monastery farm as well as pastor of the mission at Humboldt. St. Scholastica and Immaculate Conception, and resided at Muenster.

Prior Bruno appointed Father Rudolph resident pastor of Humboldt October 5, 1907 and he continued to care for the missions of St. Scholastica and the Immaculate Conception regularly, holding services at the latter place on week days. The trustees of St. Augustine's parish at this time were John Schaeffer, Michael Flory and Clement Kohle. Meanwhile the settlers of Carmel organized and began to build a church during the summer of 1908 and by July it was practically complete. It was attended from Muenster by Father Boniface Puth O.S.B. as a mission from 1909 to 1912.

On August 29, 1909, 80 members of the parish were confirmed by Bishop Pascal. The same day he also blessed the separate school and the new parish house. Mr. Nicholas Britz, had brought him from Muenster in a decorated carriage and a large crowd of people had gathered to welcome him. He had administered the sacrament of Confirmation and had preached at Muenster that morning.

Bishop Pascal visited Humboldt again July 1, 1910. Prior Bruno celebrated a High Mass coram pontifice and the Bishop's assistants were Father Vincent Schiffrer, O.S.B. and Father Rudolph. After Mass the bishop addressed the congregation and later blessed the 1,500 lbs. bell which Mrs. H. J. Haskamp of Los Angeles, California, had donated. Children and grandchildren of the generous lady stood as sponsors at the blessing of the bell. On the day before, June 30, 1910, the Bishop dedicated the new church of the Immaculate Conception Mission. There Father Rudolph celebrated the Mass after the blessing and Prior Bruno preached in German. Mr. A. Borget took the Bishop and the Fathers accompanying him back to Humboldt by car. (Mr. H. W. Haskamp was the first person to own an auto in St. Peter's Colony, having purchased it in 1908.)

Bishop Pascal paid his first official visit to Carmel on June 11, 1910, arriving by car with Prior Bruno and Father Rudolph. Shortly before 10:00 a.m. he blessed the church which was erected on an elevation northeast of town and dedicated it to Our Blessed Lady of Mount Carmel. After the dedication Father Rudolph celebrated High Mass and Prior Bruno praised the congregation for erecting such a neat church and exhorted them to continue to work for God and the good of their souls. The Bishop also addressed the faithful and gave his blessing.

The Third Katholikentag of the German Catholics was held in Humboldt August 9, 10, and 11, 1910, preparations being in the hands of Godfrey Schaeffer, Michael Flory, Albert Ecker, F. I. Hauser and August Kruse. Visitors from all parts of St. Peter's Colony, St. Joseph's Colony, Regina, Vibank, Saskatoon and many other towns and districts arrived in Humboldt on August 9. They were received at the station by John Ecker, Joseph and B. Wigbers and conducted to the assembly hall in procession by Messers. Ecker and the Wigbers on horseback, carrying banners and accompanied by the band from Hoodoo. Mr. Borget conveyed Bishop Pascal, Prior Bruno and Father Rudolph to the hall in his auto and later took them to the parish house. At four o'clock the first meeting

opened in the skating rink, which had been converted into a hall. Mr. F. I. Hauser was chairman, and Mr. G. Schaeffer, Father Rudolph and Prior Bruno welcomed the visitors. Bishop Pascal responded and said that if he had not expended his energies as a missionary among the Indians in the Far North, he would, even at his advanced age try to learn the German language. Present at the Convention besides the Benedictine Fathers, Prior Bruno, Fathers Rudolph, Peter, Dominic, Matthias, Benedict, Chrysostom, Casimir, Bernard and Boniface, were Fathers Krist, O.M.I., Schweers, O.M.I., Schwebius, O.M.I., Francis Farm, O.M.I., from the St. Joseph's Colony, Fathers Habets, O.M.I., Schulte, O.M.I., and Handrick, O.M.I., from Winnipeg, Father J. Schelbert from Vibank, Fathers Minwegen, O.M.I., from Rosthern, Brabender, O.M.I., from Saskatoon, Rapp, O.M.I., from Regina, and Joerissen, O.M.I., from Mary-Help Colony. Most of them spoke and extended greetings from the German Catholics they represented. Wm. Benz of Leofeld and Anton Huck of Vibank also spoke. Next morning, Bishop Pascal celebrated a solemn Pontifical High Mass in the convention hall in the presence of 20 priests and 2500 faithful, and Father Bernard delivered the sermon. After the service a grand parade marched through the town, the Hoodoo band again furnishing the music. The ladies of the parish prepared the meals for the many visitors. In the evening Mr. O. W. Andreason, mayor of Humboldt addressed the assembly and Mr. F. I. Hauser thanked him for his kind words. On August 11 the Convention was opened by a low Mass in church after which Father Schweers gave a resume of the work that had been done. Shortly before noon Bishop Pascal entered the hall and gave a fatherly address exhorting all to preserve and foster unity.

Toward the end of October 1910 the parishioners decided to build a new and larger church, for an estimated $20,000, to replace the present building which had become too small to serve the growing parish. By March 1911 stones for the foundation were already hauled, though excavation work was begun only in May 1912. In October the church was under roof and the contractors began construction of the tower, which was completed in May 1913. The first service to be held in the new church was a Requiem on June 19, 1913, for the deceased Mrs. August Kruse. The preceding winter the ladies of the parish had contributed $1000 for a beautiful main altar. Other donations permitted the purchase of artistic windows from Munich, Bavaria, and for Stations of the Cross which cost $300. From July 6 to 13 Father George Scheffold, O.S.B., preached a mission in the new church, and about 1200 members of the parish received Holy Communion during these days.

Bishop Pascal blessed the church on August 10, 1913. Before the dedication itself three low Masses were said in the church. At 10:00 o'clock the Bishop blessed the church and the main altar and then offered Pontifical High Mass. Prior Peter was assistant priest and preached the sermon, Father E. Lacombe, O.M.I., of Delmas, Sask., was deacon, Father William, chaplain of St. Elizabeth's Hospital was subdeacon and Father Rudolph was master of ceremonies. In spite of the unfavorable weather that day the church was filled. In the afternoon the Bishop blessed the statue of St. Augustine and then addressed the congregation in English, praising them highly for cooperating so faithfully with their pastor. After the sermon he administered the sacrament of confirmation to 98 persons including several adults.

Bishop Pascal visited Humboldt again on August 13, 1916, to confirm 56 persons and bless the cemetery of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth, north of town.

June 23, 24, and 25, 1914 Humboldt was host to another Katholikentag, wich was attended by about 3000 delegates in spite of unfavorable weather. Among them were Fathers Philip Funke, O.M.I., the general secretary, William Brueck, O.M.I., from the Catholic Orphanage, Prince Albert, Th. Schmid, Duck Lake, George Scheffold, O.S.B., Wayzata, Minn., L. Grochowski, O.M.I., Winnipeg, P. Habets, O.M.I., Windthorst, Th. Schweers, O.M.I., Allan, Peter Bour, O.M.I., Winnipeg, B. Ueberberg, O.M.I., Regina, Heinrich, Qu'Appelle, Soos, Melville, Kurz, O.M.I., Holdfast, and the Benedictine Fathers: Abbot Bruno, Prior Peter, Fathers Lawrence, Casimir, Peter Fischer, Matthias, Chrysostom, Bernard, Benedict, and Boniface. Also present were Fathers A. Benoit, administrator of the Diocese of Regina, A. Auclair, editor of "La Patriote" of Prince Albert, J. M. Joly, St. Pierre, Man., F. Perquis, Vonda and D. Gamache.

of Kuroki, The Hon. W. F. A. Tourgeon, Attorney General of the Province and M.L.A., of the constituency of Humboldt arrived in a special car with delegates from Regina. Almost all districts of the Colony were well represented. Mr F. I. Hauser was chairman of the convention and Mr. Powers, Deputy Mayor of Humboldt, extended a hearty welcome. Bishop Pascal attended and expressed his joy at being present in the following words: "When I see you before me, I look upon you as my children. I am your father, the father of all my subjects, no matter what language you speak, be it German, English, French or any other tongue. I am glad to be with you and call myself with predilection: The Bishop of the Germans. Fight the good fight for your rights, for your schools for your families, for your faith."

Mr. Hauser, Fathers Funke, Peter, Bour George Scheffold, O.S.B., and Mr. Alfred Vonnegut of Winnepeg addressed the convention. Abbot Bruno spoke about the usefulness of a Catholic [illegible] A good book," he said, "is a good friend. but a bad book is a curse." On June 24 Bishop Pascal celebrated Pontifical High Mass assisted by Father Benoit as Presbyter assistant, Fathers Melowenski and Th. Schmidt as deacon and subdeacon, and Father George Scheffold delivered the sermon. On June 25 Father Boniface Heidermann, O.F.M., of Edmonton, celebrated a Solemn Requiem High Mass for the deceased members of the Volkrverein, assisted by Fathers Bour and Ueberberg, and Father George again delivered the sermon. After dinner on June 24 all the men present marched in parade through the town, and the convention again met in the skating rink. Mr Hauser summed up the work done in the final meeting of the Katholikentag, after which the Te Deum was sung, and the convention adjourned.

In 1915 Father Rudolph asked to be relieved of his charge because of ill health and in March he was appointed pastor of St. Benedict. Father Benedict was named pastor of Humboldt. A financial report issued by Father Benedict in March of 1918 showed that the parish had reduced its debt the preceeding year from $14,253 to $12,105. despite the fact that the heating system had been installed in the church that year and the basement of the church had been connected with the draining system of the town. The year before this the debt had been reduced $2,848. The number of rate payers in 1917 was 169. Messrs. F. I. Hauser, John Schaefter and J. W. Burton were trustees.

Father Benedict also attended Immaculate Conception Mission. He had a rather upsetting experience in 1919. While on the way to a sick parishioner his team bolted and galloped down the road, turning so suddenly into a farmyard that Father Benedict feared for his life. He jumped from the conveyance safely, but suffered such a shock that he had to be taken to the hospital November 26, 1919 with a heart condition. For several months he had to give up all pastoral work, and Fathers Fridolin and Peter attended Humboldt from Muenster, and on July 25, 1920, Prior Peter announced that Father Dominic had been appointed pastor.

Father Dominic was a man of wide pastoral experience. He had been assistant priest in Assumption Parish, St. Paul, Minn., had organized the parishes of Annaheim and Lake Lenore, and had been in charge of Sacred Heart Parish, Watson for two years.

He soon recognized that St. Augustine's Parish needed a new rectory which would be a credit to the expanding congregation and large enough for a future assistant priest with room for visitors, since Humboldt had developed into a railway center. (A new railway line from Humboldt to Melfort had been opened in 1921.) In February 1921 the parish decided to build the new house. A census taken of the parish at this time showed 180 families, and 1000 parishioners, besides 30 Catholic Ruthenian families. By August the parish house was nearing completion. The old parish house was sold to Mr. Stokes and moved on March 18, 1922, by means of seven sleighs, five of which were torn to pieces in the operation.

The Knights of Columbus were established in Hamboldt on October 8, 1917, when 50 local candidates were initiated at a ceremony at which about 200 delegates from Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Battleford participated. The chief organizer was Mr. J. J. Leddy of Saskatoon. At the banquet Father Sinnett of Sinnett and Father Daly of Regina spoke, and Dr. J. L. Barry was chosen Grand Knight with Mr F. I. Hauser as Deputy Grand Knight. In March 1922, the Knights of Columbus, Humboldt Council, donated the beautiful statue of "Christ in the Grave" to St. Augustine's Church. The statue is a marter-

peace and is exposed annually beneath the side altar during the last three days of Holy Week.

In 1921 Father Dominic secured the services of Father Daniel O'Sullivan of Muenster to deliver a series of Lenten sermons to the parishioners of Humboldt. From that time on Father O'Sullivan was a familiar figure there. (Father O'Sullivan, a man of culture and learning was a secular priest born and ordained in Ireland. He taught for a time at St. Peter's College, and later was chaplain in a Manitoba hospital.) Father Joseph Sittenauer also assisted Father Dominic periodically.

Father Dominic celebrated his silver jubilee of priesthood August 8, 1922, at a solemn High Mass assisted by Father Alfred Meyer as assistant priest, Fathers Gregory Steil, O.S.B., and Leonard Kapsner, O.S.B., as deacon and subdeacon. Abbot Michael was assisted by Fathers Lawrence and Joseph Sittenauer. Father Alfred, the founder of St. Peter's Colony, was at this time the Prior of St. John's Abbey of which Fathers Gregory and Leonard were members. Father Leonard was a classmate of Father Dominic's. Father Alfred delivered the jubilee sermon in English and German. After High Mass the Knights of Columbus and the Christian Mothers offered their good wishes and presentations to the Jubilarian.

From October 28 to November 4, 1923, Fathers Max Kassiepe, O.M.I., and A. H. Rosenthal, O.M.I., preached a mission, the former having the German sermons in the church, the latter the English in the basement. In June 1924 Father D. J. Moriarty, O.M.I., preached another mission and Abbot Michael conducted a retreat for the young ladies' Sodality, from May 14 to 16, 1925.

The Separate School in Humboldt opened the school year, September 1925, with an enrollment of more than 200 children. The parishioners began to make plans for a larger school.

January 1, 1926, Abbot Michael celebrated a Pontifical High Mass in St. Augustine's Church. Since Humboldt was an important center, he wished that it should have a share in the solemn services. Prior Peter was assistant priest, Fathers Dominic and Leonard were deacons of honor and Fathers Paul and Francis deacon and subdeacon. The collection taken up on that day was assigned to the Scholarship of the Sacred Heart — a scholarship for the education of priests for St. Peter's Colony. The Jubilee Year proclaimed by the Holy Father began on that day.

The Catholic Women's League was organized in St. Augustine's Parish June 4, 1926, and the following were the first officials. Mrs. Jos. Schultis, president, Mrs. Max Bauer, first vice-president, Mrs. Archie Power, second vice-president, Mrs. Aug. Linz, third vice-president, Mrs. A. M. Kelly, treasurer, Mrs. A. J. Kruse, secretary, Mrs. J. Platzer, Miss Nellie O'Brien and Miss E. Hauser, councilors. The League celebrated its 25th anniversary on June 3, 1951 and seven charter members were present. Mrs. Max Bauer, Mrs. Leo Flory, Mrs. A. J. Kruse, Mrs. J. McAneely, Mrs. J. Platzer, Mrs. Clara Schaefter and Mrs. Arnold Schmitz. Father Aloysius was chairman of the jubilee celebration and Father Engelbert Paradis, O.F.M., the guest speaker, traced the history of the League in Canada. Mrs. Kruse added the information that Miss Lelie Guerin of Montreal was the foundress, and recounted how the League was established in the territory of the Abbey Nullius, how Mrs. J. J. Dugas of Edmonton aided in the establishment of the first subdivision and how other subdivisions were formed at Bruno, Watson, and Cudworth in 1927. Prior Peter represented Father Abbot who was absent in Eastern Canada.

The Confraternity of the Christian Mothers was established in St. Augustine's Parish in 1906 and celebrated its silver jubilee November 11, 1931. Abbot Severin was present and Father Rudolph sang a solemn High Mass with Fathers Benedict and Stephen as deacon and subdeacon. Father Rudolph reviewed the work accomplished by the Christian Mothers in the past 25 years, and Abbot Severin admitted new members. In his address he reminded them that "the power of a good Christian Mother is unlimited." Thirty seven members of the parish joined the Confraternity at its founding in 1906. The following officials were elected: Mrs. Mich. Flory, president, Mrs. Fred Heidgerken, vice-president, and Mrs. Carl Schmidt, secretary-treasurer. During the 25 years at least 34 Christian Mothers were called to their reward. The Confraternity aided the church in many ways. It contributed $300 to the building fund, purchased the artistic window of St. Elizabeth, the electric [illegible] for the main altar, the statue of the Sacred Heart, the golden vestments, the altar in the basement, the wardrobes in the sacristy, candlesticks etc. The Christian Mothers held their meetings monthly,

on the First Friday of the month they received Holy Communion in a body and after the Mass on this day they had a spiritual conference from the pastor.

On August 22, 1927 the Ursuline Sisters were in a position to join the teaching staff of the separate school. At first only three sisters were available, Mr. E. LeBlanc remained principal, and another lay teacher was engaged. Today the school is entirely under the direction of the Sisters. It has grown to such an extent that 12 Sisters are required including three who take care of their residence, which was purchased from Mr. O. W. Andreason in 1926.

In June of 1929 construction began on a new C.P.R. line from Lanigan to Prince Albert via Humboldt. In September the rails reached Humboldt and on September 30 1930, the line was opened for passenger service. The town of Humboldt declared a holiday and gave a banquet in honor of Mr. E. W. Beatty, President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, that evening.

On December 8, 1930 St. Augustine's parish celebrated its silver jubilee. Father Rudolph, the first pastor, celebrated the public solemn High Mass with Father Benedict, the second pastor, as deacon, and Father Dominic, the third pastor, as subdeacon. Abbot Severin preached in German and English. In the evening a program of speaches and music was held in the Knights of Columbus hall.

March 31, 1930, His Excellency, Viscount Willingdon, the Governor General of Canada and Lady Willingdon visited Humboldt. The visitors arrived by special train at 2:00 P.M. on the invitation of Mr. A. F. Totzke, then the Member of Parliament for the constituency of Humboldt. They were met at the station by Mayor Crawley and the Town Council, the officials of the Rural Municipality of Humboldt, the Canadian Legion, the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and an immense crowd of people. From the station the party proceeded to the public school where the children of the town and district were assembled. Then they were taken to St. Elizabeth Hospital where they were received by Abbot Severin, Mother Superioress Seraphina, the Sisters and student nurses. They visited many of the patients and had a word of consolation for all. Everyone was much impressed by the friendliness of the visitors. They stayed longer at the hospital than their schedule allowed, so that instead of arriving at the town hall at 3:00 they reached it at 3:20. The hall was packed, and because of the shortness of the time the speeches had to be abreviated. The students of St. Peter's College were present.

July 10, 1932, Father Gregory Gasser celebrated his first solemn High Mass at Humboldt. He had been ordained June 29 by Bishop Prud'homme of Prince Albert in the Cathedral at Muenster. The newly ordained priest was conducted in procession to the Church with the Knights of Columbus as guards of honor. At Mass he was assisted by Father Augustine as deacon, Father Aloysius as subdeacon, and Father Dominic as assistant priest. In the sanctuary were Abbot Severin Prior Peter, Fathers Hilary Doerfler, O.S.B., (a brother of the deceased Abbot Bruno), Joseph Steiger of Earling, Iowa, Alphonse, Subprior Joseph Sittenauer, and Benedict. Father Peter delivered the sermon in German and Father Joseph in English. In the afternoon the new priest officiated at solemn Vespers and Father Steiger, in a sermon, related his experiences at the exorcisms performed over a girl in his parish. She had been possessed for twelve years and after 23 days the Capuchin Father Theophilus Ramager succeeded in expelling the evil spirits. The power over the devil, Father Steiger said, is given to the Catholic priest at his ordination. After Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament Father Gregory gave his blessing to the people individually.

Father James Patrick Murphy of Regina, ordained on April 2, 1949, offered his second solemn High Mass here on April 10, in the church where he had been an altar boy. Fathers Wilfrid and Paul were deacon and subdeacon and Abbot Severin preached the sermon. Present were his mother and other relatives from Regina. Father Murphy is the son of Mrs. and the late Mr. Vincent Murphy, who practiced law in Humboldt, and drowned in July 1935. Later that year the family moved to Regina. In the evening a public reception was held in the Knights of Columbus hall, where Mr. Henry Koep read an illuminated address and Father Aloysius offered Father Murphy a purse in behalf of the parishioners. Father Murphy thanked all and expressed his happiness to be in his boyhood home again.

On July 29, 1947, St. Augustine's Parish cel-

ebrated the Golden Jubilee of Father Dominic Father Dominic was then 73 years old and in poor health. He was assisted to the outdoor altar which had been erected on the west side of the separate school. His nephew, Father Stephen Hofma[illegible] S.B., a member of Mt. Angel Abb[illegible] deacon and Father Paul, subdeacon. Abbot Severin was present in Cappa Magna, assisted by Fathers Peter and Leonard, Father Florian was master of [illegible] nonies and Father George directed the children of Mary choir. About 1600 attended the service, including many from Annaheim, Lake Lenore, Watson, E[illegible] Bruno and other parishes of the Colony. In his sermon Father Abbot stressed the dignity of the priesthood. The proper soil for good priests, he said, was good families and if priestly vocations in a parish are lacking, there must be something wrong with the families. The ladies of the parish prepared dinner in the Arena. There St. Augustine's parish congratulated the jubilarian. All the parishes which Father Dominic had founded or served had representatives present and the children of of the [illegible]h participated in the program. Father Dominic thanked all the participants in the festivities, remarking that the honors shown to priests were really given to God who chooses mortal men to represent Him on earth.

In 1936 the Humboldt Separate School District constructed a new school west of the Church. The plans were drawn up by the architects Van Egmond and Storey, Regina, and construction was in charge of the Pool Construction Co., Regina. The cost of the 80 x 72, two storey building, housing six classrooms, was over $30,000. The trustees were F. L. Hauser, Fred Heidgerken (both trustees for the past 30 years), J. J. Gaetz, Max Bauer and P. H. Thieman. The school was blessed by Abbot Severin, October 25, 1936. That afternoon the entire congregation assembled in church, and after the preliminary prayers proceeded to the school where the flag was blessed and hoisted while the children saluted, and sang the national anthem. Each classroom was then blessed, and little Julia Lachmuth read a short illuminated address. After this all returned in the church where Father Abbot explained the significance of the blessing. The next day the school was officially opened and Mr. O. R. Hutchings, the Inspector of Schools, and Dr. J. H. McKechnie, Deputy Minister of Education for Saskatchewan, addressed the children. Rose Mary Platzer, a Grade One pupil presented the keys of the school to Mr. McKechnie. In the evening a civic celebration took place in the town hall. Speakers were: Mr. S. M. Sutherland, mayor of Humboldt, Mr. O. R. Hutchings, Inspector of Schools, Mr. F. S. Lucas, principal of the Separate School, Mr. E. LeBlanc, principal of Humboldt Collegiate Institute, Father Dominic, Dr. J. C. King, M.L.A., representing Humboldt, Dr. J. H. McKechnie, Deputy Minister of Education, and Abbot Severin. Mr. Hauser was chairman and musical selections were interspersed between the speeches.

Humboldt's growth has been so rapid that within a decade the six classrooms were overcrowded. The enrollment increased from 184 in 1936 to 273 in 1951 and by September 1952 it was 286. The smallest number of pupils in any room was 33 and the largest 48. At a meeting of the ratepayers in the fall of 1951 it was agreed that more classroom space was needed, and Messers W. G. Van Egmond and Stan E. Storey were again consulted. Mr. Storey submitted a plan for an addition to the north of the present building to harmonize with the existing structure, containing four classrooms at an estimated cost of $70,000.

In 1943 Father Dominic's health began to decline. In response to his request for assistance on Sundays and Holydays Father Philip was sent from the Abbey, and other Fathers who assisted for a time were Fathers Paul, George, Florian and Roman. Father George assisted in Humboldt for over a year and arranged for three Masses on Sundays and Holydays. He was in charge of the arrangements for Father Dominic's jubilee, June 29, 1947. Father Prior Peter assisted Father Dominic on all the principal feasts of the Ecclesiastical year, Christmas, Easter, All Saints, for more than twenty years. In September 1947 Father George was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Watson, and Father Aloysius succeeded him in Humboldt, first as administrator, and after the death of Father Dominic, January 27, 1950 as pastor. Since November 1947 Father Roman has been the regular week-end assistant at St. Augustine's Church.

Because of the steady increase in the population of Humboldt, the church built in 1912, under Father Rudolph's administration, which seated 408, became too small, so in the summer of 1949 the

parish decided to enlarge it By August a building fund of $20,000 had been gathered, and Mr Anton Stadelmann received the contract to add a new section to the north end The bulky pillars were replaced with pillars of steel and other alterations made. Construction did not interfere with divine service. In the spring of 1951 the big task was finished and the new section, also of brick, harmonizes with the old church The church now seats over 700. The basement, extending the full length of the church, contains the oil heating furnace and is a modern convention hall.

A new frame church for the Ruthenian Catholics was erected in Humboldt in 1950 south of the railroad. Before it was built a priest of that rite visited Humboldt periodically and held service in St. Augustine's Church while on other Sundays and Holy days they attended Mass in the Latin rite

In recording the principal events in the history of St Augustine's Parish no mention was made of the dates of confirmation since 1913 As a rule confirmation is administered by the Bishop every three years. On Pentecost Sunday, June 1, 1952, Abbot Severin confirmed 113 members of the parish. In his sermon he told the parishioners that over 1900 years ago the Holy Ghost visibly descended upon 120 persons; now He would descend invisibly upon almost the same number. Since the beginning of St Peter's Colony, he said, the Holy Ghost had been working in a most evident manner, and he appealed strongly for prayer and sacrifice to obtain priestly and religious vocations. He expressed regret that after 49 years, appeals for this purpose still had to be made

Miss Agnes Schmidt, now Sister Marianna of the Sisters of St Elizabeth, was the first young lady of the parish to enter a religious order, and also the first of St Peter's Colony to join the new community. Other young ladies who entered that order from the parish of Humboldt are Sisters Augustine Mainzer, Colleta Kloppenburg, M. Rosa Kloppenburg, Valeria Scheiber, Annuntiata Feltin and burg, Valena Scheiber and Annuntiata Feltin

First Church of St. Sebastian

St. Scholastica

As already mentioned, Father Rudolph founded St. Scholastica's Mission south of Humboldt, on October 15, 1905, and attended it once a month until March 1915, when he was transferred to St Benedict Thereafter Father Benedict had charge of the Mission until 1920. Father Marcellus, stationed in Bruno, attended it until 1921, and parishioners donated an auto, so that he could serve the mission more conveniently In July 192. Father Matthew took over the Mission and received the car The first High Mass celebrated in St Scholastica's Mission occurred on August 27, 1922. the day on which a number of the children received their First Holy Communion. Father Matthew celebrated the High Mass, Father Ignatius Groll, O.S.B., played the organ, and the Clerics of St. Peter's Abbey sang. The people were so overjoyed that there were tears in some eyes. That afternoon the children were taken to the banks of Stoney Lake for a picnic

The church proving too small, a new one was erected in 1923. Father Joseph Sittenauer celebrated the first Mass in the new church, August 5 though it was not quite finished, while Father Matthew was in the United States on a short visit to his home. Before this date, while the old church was being razed and the new one in the process of erection, Mass was celebrated beneath the roof of the old church, the congregation attending in the open. An organ was hauled three miles from the home of Mr Peter Klassen and the choir of the Mission sang beautifully There were 30 families in the Mission, The visiting priest always found a hospitable welcome in the home of Mr. Peter Klassen. Regular services were held in the new church from November 4 1923 and it was blessed by Abbot Michael July 4, 1924, assisted by Father Charles Cannon, O.S.B., and Father Matthew After the High Mass sung by Father Matthew, Father Abbot administered confirmation. In his sermon he expressed joy at the cooperation the parishioners had shown in erecting such a nice church. On October 18, 1925, first Holy Communion was administered to 25 children. A number of visitors from other parishes attended, and the church was filled to capacity, reminding the congregation that the church would have to be enlarged in the not too distant future. Before the approach of winter 1926, a furnace was installed in the basement

In the summer of 1927 Abbot Severin appointed Father Leonard pastor of St. Scholastica and he held his first services there on July 24, 1927 Father Leonard is still pastor, and since the summer of 1930 he has services every Sunday and Holiday, whereas formerly services were held only every second Sunday

After serving St. Scolastica 23 years Father Leonard had the privilege of celebrating the silver jubilee of his priesthood amid his parishioners and friends on August 6, 1950. The jubilarian offered his Mass of thanksgiving with his two brother priests, Father Subprior Xavier and Father Edward as deacon and subdeacon. Abbot Severin delivered the sermon in which he stressed the need of vocations. After Mass Edward Merkowsky offered congratulations in behalf of the parish and made a presentation in the name of the parishioners and the Confraternity of the Christian Mothers and Father Edward extended the good wishes of the family and all relatives

Two years later, August 17, 1952, St Scholastica's Church was again crowded with parishioners and friends at a solemn High Mass celebrated by Father Leonard marking his 25th anniversary as pastor He was assisted by his brother Father Edward as deacon, and Rev Michael Blanch, a son of the parish as subdeacon. Four nephews of the celebrant served at the Mass and and Father Florian delivered the sermon. After Mass the parishioners gathered in front of the church and Mr Joseph Novecosky presented a spiritual bouquet, an easy chair and other gifts. Father Leonard thanked the parishioners for what they had done in the past and on that day. He reminded them that all he or any other pastor had ever done was to "help Christ grow in their souls."

On September 28, 1952 Father Abbot Severin administered the sacrament of Confirmation to 56 members of St Scholastica's Parish. Father Leonard sang the High Mass and Father Abbot preached

Enlarged Church of St Sebastian at present.

[illegible]

The church built in 1923 becoming too small, it was considerably enlarged in 1942, and in 1952 the basement was enlarged and renovated.

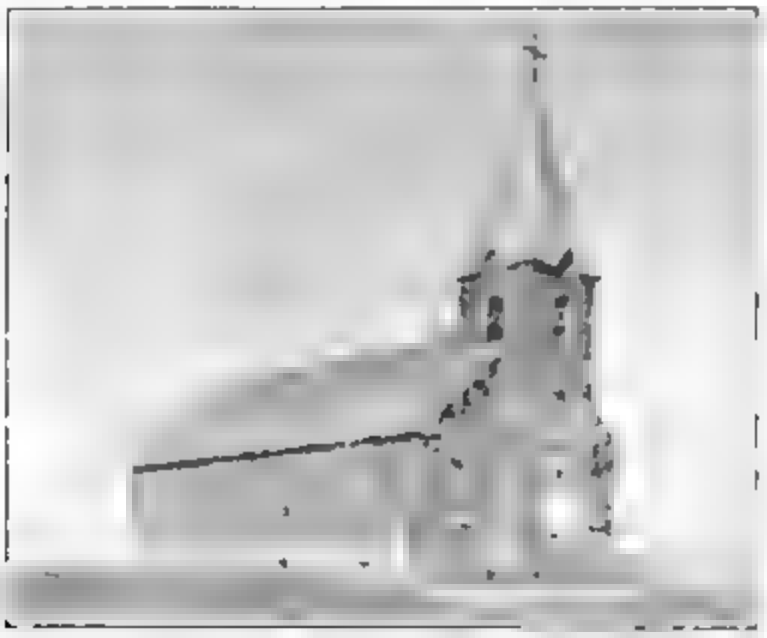
The following young ladies of the parish have joined religious communities: Sisters Mary Gertrude Blanch, M. Giles Blanch, M. Michael Blanch, Clare Marie Koppes, Eugenia Koppes, Immaculata Saretsky, Leonardine Novecosky, Caecilia Klassen, Genevieve Novecosky, Zita Poelzer, M. Ruth Poelzer, Agnes Poelzer.

Immaculate Conception

The first Mass in the Mission of the Immaculate Conception, south of Carmel, was celebrated by Father Rudolph on Thursday, November 15, 1906 and on June 30, 1910, Bishop Pascal blessed the church which had been constructed near the house of Mr. Froess. Father Rudolph and Father Benedict, as pastors of Humboldt, visited the Mission frequently, usually on week days. After the parish house was completed at Carmel in 1923, Father Matthew was able to arrange service more regularly at the Mission. As an example of the intense activity Father Matthew was called upon to exercise, the following may be recorded. On November 1, 1924, the Feast of All Saints, a Saturday, Father Matthew celebrated his first Mass at St. Scholastica's Church, followed by a High Mass at Carmel, where after Mass the Blessed Sacrament was exposed until evening. The next day, Sunday, he celebrated his first Mass at Carmel followed by a High Mass at the Mission of the Immaculate Conception, where also there was exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until evening. November 3 All Souls Day that year, Father Matthew said the first Mass at the church of the Immaculate Conception, the second one, a High Mass at Carmel, and the third Mass, also a High Mass at St. Scholastica. Immediately after the third Mass he hurried on a sick call to the bedside of a 90 year old lady. It was six o'clock in the evening before he found time to eat his breakfast. That evening he baptized Edward Saretsky, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Saretsky. In each of the three places almost every parishioner had gone to confession and to Holy Communion. About the same schedule was in store for Father Matthew on All Saints Day and All Souls Day in 1925 and 1926. Christmas Day services in the three parishes demanded even greater sacrifices, since the condition of the roads and the winter cold had to be contended with.

Although the Mission of the Immaculate Conception at that time was composed of only 22 families, they erected a new church on Section 4, township 37, range 24, 75 x 35 feet, under the direction of Father Matthew. Anton Stadelmann of Engelfeld was the contractor of this beautiful frame church covered with brick veneer, the only one of its kind in the colony. A considerable fund had been gathered before construction began and much of the labor was donated by the parishioners, with the result that no debts had been incurred. Prior Peter blessed the church July 25, 1926. He sang the solemn High Mass assisted by Fathers Matthew and Francis as deacon and subdeacon. At that time the church seemed too large for the congregation, but the parishioners had built for the future. However, on the day of the dedication it was filled to capacity.

Twenty five years later, August 5, 1951 the Mission of the Immaculate Conception celebrated the silver jubilee of its dedication. Again a large congregation assembled for the solemn High Mass offered by Prior Peter, assisted by Fathers Wilfrid and Norbert. Prior Peter preached in English and German and enumerated some of the many graces which the faithful had received in their church during its twenty five years of existance. He asked them to look upon their church as the most sacred spot in the Mission and urged them to pray for much needed vocations to the priesthood. After Mass dinner was served in the church basement. The first trustees of the Mission were John Fortowsky, Fred Kosokowsky and Gottlieb Witt. At At the time of the jubilee the trustees were John



Church of Immaculate Conception

First Church of Immaculate Conception

Berschmunsky, Valentine Froess and Nicholas Witt. The number of families in the Mission had increased to 36. In 1927 a bell weighing 1,000 lbs was purchased and blessed by Abbot Severin June 12, 1927. On that occasion Father Abbot preached at the High Mass celebrated by Father Matthew and told the congregation what message the bell has for the people of a parish.

Father Matthew attended the Mission of the Immaculate Conception until the latter part of September 1927, when he was appointed rector of St. Peter's College. He was succeeded as pastor of Carmel and Conception by Father Stephen who for the next twelve years, took great interest in improving and beautifying the Mission as well as the pilgrimage spot of Mount Carmel. August 19, 1928, Abbot Severin confirmed 20 children at the Mission. Father Stephen sang the High Mass and Father Aloysius assisted Abbot Severin at the throne. On September 21, 1931 Father Abbot confirmed 24 children the day of their solemn communion, and Father Matthew, their former pastor, sang the High Mass.

In September 1939 Father Stephen was named pastor of Engelfeld and Father Alphonse succeeded him as pastor of Carmel, and the Mission of the Immaculate Conception. He remained there until 1948 when he was succeeded by Father Theodore, September 7, 1948.

Carmel

Father Rudolph said the first Holy Mass in the Carmel district in the house of John Weber on the southeast quarter of section 12, township 38, range 24, about three and one half miles northeast of the present town of Carmel, probably in the spring of 1908. The exact date could not be ascertained. The first marriage solemnized at Carmel was that of Peter Wolf and Theresia Huber, June 5, 1910, Father Boniface officiating. On May 16, 1910, John Haupt was buried, the Requiem being sung by Father Boniface. The first Carmel choir consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Konner Mr. and Mrs. John Weber, Eugene Hammerer, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Ben Remeke and Otto Lutz, while Mrs. Henry Engele was the first organist.

Father Boniface attended the Carmel Mission from Muenster between 1909 and 1912. The church was built on a little knoll northeast of the town, and blessed by Bishop Pascal June 11, 1910. In 1917 a building was erected near the church to serve as a residence for the teacher of the parochial school, Miss Catherine Diethelm. Father George Scheffold, O.S.B., preached a mission at Carmel July 1 to 4, 1915. Father Bernard, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Watson, visited Carmel from 1912 to 1915 once a month, and from 1915 to 1919 Father Joseph Wickel, pastor of Englefeld, came once a month. On December 4, 1919 a member of Carmel Mission wrote to Muenster that "Sunday, November 30, was a memorable day for the parish of Carmel, as on this day our pastor, Father Joseph, visited his parish for the last time officially. During the four years that Father Joseph had charge of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church the parish has made remarkable progress both spiritually and financially. In order that Carmel might receive services oftener Father Joseph interceded with Abbot Michael, and he was kind enough to give the parish of Carmel semimonthly service thereafter. Father Endolin has been appointed our new pastor." Father Endolin, however, did not long attend to Carmel, for he was appointed pastor of Watson in July 1920. Father Marcellus, who assisted Father Leo at Bruno at the time, was named the new pastor of Carmel. A year later, July 1921, Father Marcellus was replaced by Father Matthew who also took charge of St. Scholastica's mission and the Mission of the Immaculate Conception.

Bishop Pascal visited Carmel the last time on August 12, 1914, to confirm 22 young members of the parish, and Abbot Michael administered Confirmation on October 10, 1920, to 73 children 53 from Carmel and 20 from Immaculate Conception. Many of the faithful found no room in the church for the service, a sign that the church was

Scene at Consul Church in the early days

House where scene first used, south of Consul in Conception Parish

too small for the parish. In the parish school at Carmel the enrollment had reached 70. When Miss Helen Kopp and Miss Mary Kopp of Muenster taught there in 1921, 65 children attended the parochial school. Miss Mary Muench of Muenster also taught at Carmel.

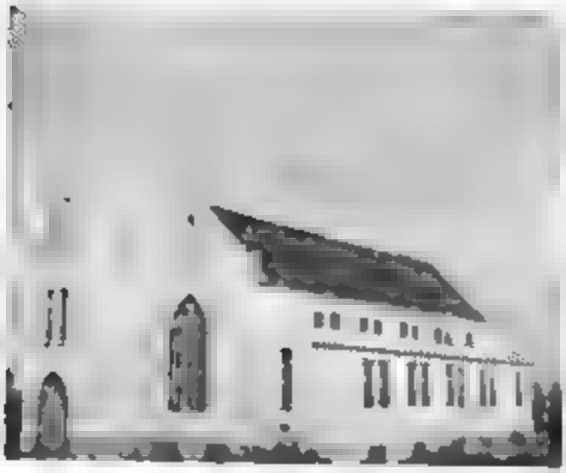
As time went on it was found that the place on which the church had been built, the little knoll north of the railway, was entirely too small for future expansion. At a meeting on August 14, 1921, at which Prior Peter and Father Leo were present, the parishioners decided that the church be moved to a parcel of land, donated for the purpose, favorably located south of the railway and quite close to the town and the main road. Mr. Koob of Bruno was given the contract to move the buildings to the new site. Within a month the work was completed so that Mass could be said on the new site September 25, 1921.

With the coming of Father Matthew Carmel was raised to the rank of a parish with a resident pastor. A new parish house, close to the church was completed during the late summer of 1923. It was however, no bed of roses on which the new pastor of Carmel could rest. This is part of a letter he wrote to a confrere in April 1927, "I have made many a trip by day and by night, none of them however, can be compared to my trip last Sunday (April 3, on horseback). You accompanied me once when I went by auto through the wild stretch country from St. Scholastica to Conception. Then you have some idea of the lay of the land and can imagine how I fared. I left Carmel at 5 o'clock in the morning and returned again in the evening. It seemed as though all the snow from the trees on the prairie around Carmel had been blown into the bush country to the south. In many places there was snow on top and water below. Repeatedly my horse broke through and at one time as it sank down to its belly it fell to its side, and horse and rider lay in the morass. Each time it tried to rise it sank in deeper and I had a hard time to coax and pull it out. On the way home I had to dismount at least a dozen times and lead the poor animal by the bridle. My feet and legs were soaked. By the time I reached home the cold had penetrated into my whole body and caused a feeling as if it had been 40 degrees below zero. To my surprise I did not catch a cold. It also was a hard trip for the poor horse. It had bled badly even before I reached St. Scholastica, because in the morning all was ice and frozen ground and the snow was covered with a crisp icy crust."

To give more room to the increasing number of parishioners, extensive alterations were made in the interior of the church during the year 1[illegible] under the direction of Father Stephen, Father Matthew's successor. A parish hall was erected close to the church in 1939. Father Stephen embellished the grounds and the cemetery at Carmel by planting trees and shrubs in his spare time. In addition to attending the parish of Carmel and the Mission of the Immaculate Conception Father Stephen also visited St. John's Mission, outside of the Colony, at the request of the Bishop of Prince Albert. On September 25, 1933, Bishop Prud'homme of Prince Albert visited St. John's church and conferred confirmation on about 50 children. The Bishop preached in English and Father Bernard of Bruno in German.

August 12, 1928, was a solemn day for the parish of Carmel. At 9:30 Father Stephen celebrated a High Mass at which Father Joseph preached in English and German and 20 children made their solemn Communion. In the afternoon Abbot Severin arrived and was met by 20 men on horseback who accompanied him over two miles and conducted him to the church. There he confirmed 27 children of the parish, assisted by Fathers Lawrence, Bernard and Aloysius. Father Abbot spoke to the congregation about the gifts of the Holy Ghost and the graces He works in the souls of the confirmed. On August 30, 1930, Father Abbot again visited the parish. A troup of 12 horsemen met him and conducted his auto to the church. At the High Mass he was assisted by Fathers Ste[illegible]. A number of children received solemn Communion at the Mass and Abbot Severin preached on the value of Communion. In the afternoon he blessed the 1000 lbs. bell at which the trustees of the parish acted as sponsors. The name of the bell is "Severinus." The Abbot again addressed the congregation, explaining the message a bell gives to the congregation.

When Father Stephen was transferred to Engelfeld in September 1939 Father Alphonse was appointed pastor. During his pastorate a new church 74 x 42 feet was erected in 1947. Plans were drawn up by a Saskatoon architect and construction was in charge of William Ludwig of Bruno. Prior Peter



Present Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

blessed the church October 3, 1947 assisted by Fathers Paul and George, who were also deacon and subdeacon at the solemn High Mass. Vernon Engele was master of ceremonies and Father Alphonse directed the choir. In his sermon Father Peter dwelt briefly on the history of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, calling to mind two of the deceased former pastors, Fathers Rudolph and Boniface, and asked the parishioners to remember them in their prayers. He also spoke briefly of the ceremonies of the blessing of a church. He congratulated Father Alphonse and the parishioners on the beautiful church they had erected. The large basement was the main attraction after the High Mass, where the ladies of the parish served dinner.

Father Alphonse was in charge of the parish at Carmel for nine years, when he was transferred to St. Benedict and Father Theodore succeeded him in September 1948. Two years later the Ursuline Nuns of Bruno took over the Carmel school. At first they attended the school from the motherhouse in Bruno, making the trip daily by auto, but next year they erected a house near the church and school.

God has shown His special love for the little parish of Carmel and the Mission of Conception. He has chosen eight young ladies for the religious state. Sisters Delphina Berschominsky (from Conception) Pulcheria Foth, Raphaela Reinecke, Lau[illegible]ertha Hepp, Edwina Hepp and Rita Berthold, Theodora and Fidelis Reinecke. The last three joined the Ursulines in Bruno, while the other five became members of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth in Humboldt. Two sons of Carmel Parish have become priests. Father Philip Engele, O.M.I. and his brother, Father Alfred Engele, O.S.B. Father Philip Engele made his classical studies at St. Peter's College, joined the Oblates and [illegible] Novitiate at Battleford, Saskatchewan. He celebrated his first Mass at Carmel, June 15, at an altar erected outdoors. Father J. Walliser O.M.I., was assistant priest and delivered the sermon, Fathers Matthew and Wilfrid were deacon and subdeacon, and Abbot Severin assisted in Cappa Magna. The entire choir, organist and singers, were composed of members of the family of the celebrant. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Engele and their sons an daughters. In the afternoon Father Engele officiated at the Corpus Christi procession. Four relatives of the new priest, Michael, Henry, Albert, and Roman Engele carried the canopy. In the evening the children of three schools Highgate, Gertrude and Carmel, entertained the visitors and Father Alphonse congratulated the newly ordained priest.

Father Alfred Engele, O.S.B., was ordained on June 4, 1944 by Bishop Reginald Duprat O.P., of Prince Albert in St. Peter's Cathedral, and celebrated his first Solemn High Mass on June 11 on Mt. Carmel. His brother, Father Philip Engele, was deacon, Father Florian was subdeacon and Father Alphonse was assisant priest. Abbot Severin was present in Cappa Magna and delivered the sermon. He was assisted by Brothers Dominic Distel, O.S.B. and Norbert Hasenmueller, O.S.B. Father Matthew, former pastor of Carmel, also addressed the congregation. After the High Mass the newly ordained priest carried the Blessed Sacrament in procession around the mount. Many people from the Colony attended the solemnity. Another son, the youngest of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Engele, Vernon, is preparing for the priesthood in St. Charles Scholasticate North Battleford.

Parish of St. Gregory

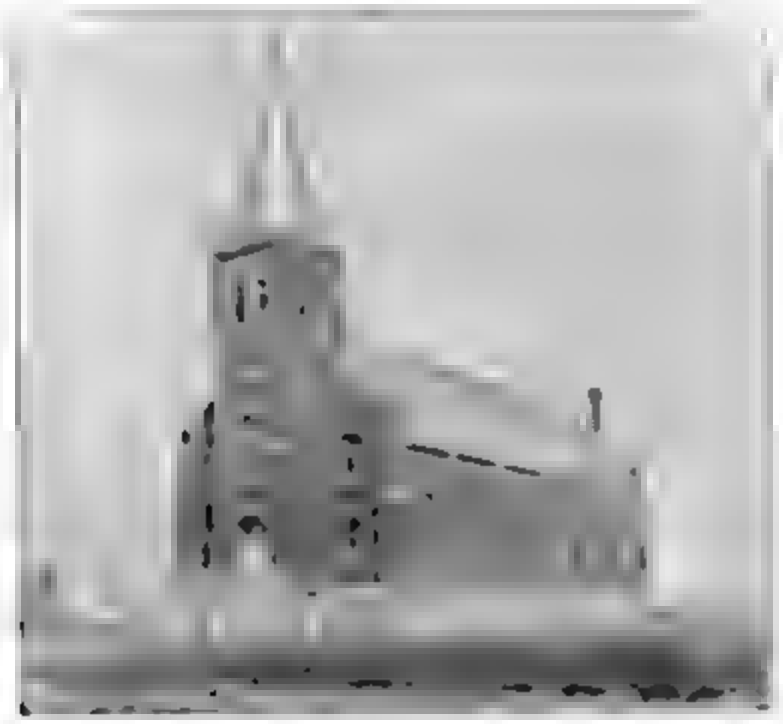
The Parish of St Gregory, was founded b Prior Bruno, January 17, 1907, a day on which the mometer registered 36 degrees below zero. I is the only parish personally founded by Prior Bruno. He celebrated Mass in the store of Mr A despite the cold. After Mass a meeting was held J. Ries, at which about 50 persons were present and the following trustees were elected A. J. Ries, Zacharias Trueby and John Binsfeld. It was decid ed to erect a church as soon as possible, whic would serve as a school during the week days. The sum of $250 was subscribed immediately and Prior Bruno promised that there would be Mass once a month at first, a priest driving from Muenster Father Peter was appointed first pastor of the mission. Early in spring the parishioners began to erect a frame church and until its completion Mass was celebrated in Mr Ries store, the last time, on June 23, 1907. On that day Father Peter urged the little flock to ready the church sufficiently so that next morning a wedding could take place in it. His appeals were not in vain. At 5 o'clock on the morning of June 24, 16 men, equipped with hammers, saws and brooms, came to the unfinished church. They laid the floor, cleaned up and built primitive altar in time for the service. The bridal couple Kilian Stollenwerk and Catherine Fouhs had received their prenuptual instructions from Father Peter in Mr Ries' home, a few miles northeast of the present town, on the afternoon of June 23. The church was filled as the settlers from the surrounding country attended this first service in their new church. Father Peter spoke to the congregation about the blessings that Holy Mother Church had in store for them. The patron chosen for the new church was St. Gregory, the Great the first Benedictine Pope, who died in 604. The first baptism recorded was that of Anthony Zimmermann, by Father Matthias, on July 21, 1907.

At a meeting December 8, 1907 at which Father Peter presided, a parish school was organized. Messrs. Karl Morschenhofer, Martin Plemel and Nicholas Ackermann, were elected trustees, and Mr Frank Plemel engaged as teacher. Every home steader was assessed $10 for the support of the school. School was officially opened in the church April 6, 1908. Before this Mr Plemel had organized a choir so that for Christmas 1907 and on subsequent monthly visits the parish could have a High Mass. Three girls, Josephine Binsfeld, Clara Ries and Anna Trueby received their first Holy Communion on Octoebr 13, 1908. They had gone to Muenster by horse and buggy for their instruction. In 1908 St. Gregor had a church, a post office, a general store, a section house, a blacksmith shop and a lumber yard.

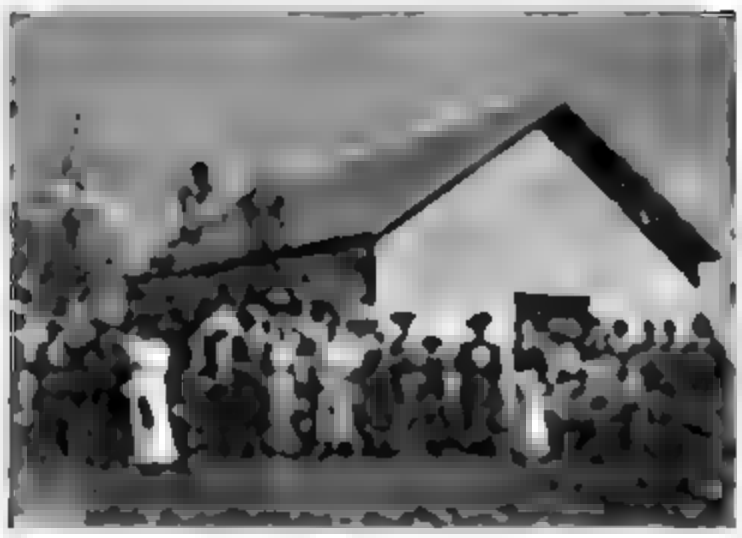
In December, 1908, Father Peter was replaced by Father Bernard as pastor, and four months later, May 1909, Father Leo was given charge of the parish. Miss Clara Kopp of Muenster was teacher for a time with an enrollment of 19. In 1911 Mr Plemel was again in charge of the school. He taugh the children Gregorian chant and on August 6, 1911 the children sang for a High Mass. In 1912 the school was conducted by Miss Mary Plemel (now Sister Benedict, O. S. U.). In 1912 two double weddings were solemnized first one on October 15, when Jacob Schwartz and Susanna Raskob, and Michael Kunz and Mary Raskob, were married and the other one October 29, when John Schwinghammer and Catharine Binsfeld, and John Raskob and Mary Binsfeld were married.

Bishop Pascal visited the parish July 2, 1910, blessed the church and administered the sacrament of Confirmation to 14 members. Prior Bruno celebrated the High Mass, while Fathers Chrysostom and Casimir assisted the Bishop, who addressed the congregation before confirmation.

In 1911 Father Bernard visited St. Gregor twice a month. During this time an annex was added to the north of the sanctuary which served as sleeping quarters for the priest and as sacristy for the church. Father Joseph Wickel was Father Bernard's assistant and also paid frequent visits to St Gregor. Here is how he described the annex and his experiences in it. 'Since there was no lodging place in the village, this annex, a few feet long and wide, made of simple boards, served as sleeping quarters. Instead of a chimney, a stove pipe led through an opening in the roof. On windy nights this pipe rattled so that it was impossible to sleep. On a rainy night sheets of water inundated the room. No matter into what corner I pushed the



Present Church of St. Gregory the Great, Lodi



First Church of St. Gregory

bed, I could not find a dry spot In desparation I finally left it entirely and looked for another place Mr Frank or Martin Plemel had a little room, and that is where I found some rest." When Mr Ries erected a large home in the village, Father Joseph stayed there while in St Gregor and always found cordial hospitality

Father George Scheffold, O.S.B. preached a mission from June 30 to July 4, 1914, the whole parish attending the three daily sermons. On July 3 he blessed the mission cross and on July 4, after a Mass for the deceased members of the parish, he blessed the cemetery. The parish at that time numbered 25 families and several bachelors. According to the parish census of 1920 the number of families had increased to 36 and there were 12 bachelors. The parish books for 1912 to 1913 showed a cash balance of $1 35, by 1922 they showed a balance of $9,861 92. With such a respectable sum on hand, Father Joseph and the parishioners believed that the time had come to erect a new church. They wanted to construct it of brick, large and beautiful enough to be a credit to the parish and the Colony In November 1922 Father Joseph was appointed pastor of St Ann's Church, Annaheim, but he remained in charge of St Gregor The cornerstone for the new church was blessed by Abbot Michael July 15, 1923, assisted by Fathers Joseph, Casimir, Ignatius and D O'Sullivan. At the parish festival that followed, plus a few previous entertainments, the sum of $1250 was realized and added to the building fund. Mr Anton Stadelmann of Engelfeld was the contractor Construction proceeded smoothly and without mishap that summer until August 24, when August Hogg of Annaheim who was working on the roof at the time, was struck on the head by a brick falling from the tower and fell from the roof unconscious Fortunately he fell into a ditch filled with water which broke his fall. He was rushed to the hospital at Humboldt where he remained unconscious for several days, but recovered and returned home in about three weeks The church was built 86 x 40 ft with a 12 ft. high basement, and a 86 ft high tower The stained glass windows, costing $1 00 were donated by the parishioners, and one parishioner donated a bell weighing 1800 lbs. Not counting these donations, the cost of the church, complete with two furnaces and interior furnishings amounted to $18.000. The new church was so that the parishioners at the time filled only half of it. But Father Joseph and his flock had built for the future, constructing the church so that the east wall could be removed when it became necessary to enlarge the church. It was a wise provision. Now in 1953 plans are being drawn up to enlarge it because the congregation has outgrown the space available.

Abbot Michael blessed the church October 21 1923. Father Joseph celebrated a solemn High Mass *coram pontifice*, with Father Peter as deacon, and Father Daniel O'Sullivan as subdeacon Father Abbot congratulated the parish and its pastor for erecting such a beautiful church. Eleven boys and six girls received their first Holy Communion, and the ladies of the parish served meals in the old frame church

About this time Father Marcellus, pastor of Engelfeld, was placed in charge of St Gregor so that Father Joseph could devote his full time to Annaheim

The next celebration in St Gregor was July 31, 1927 At 9 30 Father Marcellus celebrated a low Mass at which 25 children received solemn Communion and at 10:00 there was a High Mass At 2:00 P M, Abbot Severin arrived by auto and was met by the parishioners at the main road They accompanied him to the church where he was received by Father Marcellus. After the children had been invested with the scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Father Abbot confirmed them assisted by Fathers Marcellus and Aloysius

St Gregor was host to the District Katholiken tak (District Catholic Convention) of St. Peter's Colony on July 13, 1930. Abbot Severin sang a pontifical High Mass, assisted by Fathers Prior, Wilfrid, Xavier, Aloysius, and Alphonse. Prior Peter delivered the sermon The ladies of the parish served dinner At 2:00 P M. the convention was opened and Father Marcellus. Messers John Raab, F J Hauser and W F Hargarten welcomed the delegates. Father August Kerdorf O.M.I., the General Secretary of the Volksverein, addressed the assembly on Catholic Education and Abbot Severin spoke on the Sacrament of Matrimony as a divine institution. At the end of the convention Father Marcellus thanked all the visitors and Father Abbot gave them his blessing. In the evening the Theatrical Society of St. Gregor staged "The Dust

of the Earth" under the direction of Mr H J Murphy

Father Abbot visited St Gregor again on October 12, 1930, for the canonical visitation Muddy roads prevented the visit to the cemetery, so Father Abbot pronounced the Absolution for the dead in the Church instead, and imparted the Aopstolic Blessing

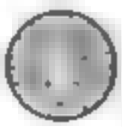
In August 1931 Father Marcellus was appointed pastor of Muenster and retained the administration of St Gregor In his capacity as Immigration Agent in the Volksverein he was instrumental in bringing a number of German settlers to Canada and located them on farms in the vicinity of St Gregor This accounted for the fact that the number of parishioners greatly increased and since a greater number contributed to the support of the parish the debt incurred in building the church was wiped out by the time the parish celebrated its silver jubilee, November 13, 1932

The day chosen for the jubilee was cold 13 below zero. Father Joseph of Annaheim motored to St Gregor to take part in the festivity, and had to borrow a car from one of the farmers on the way because, "the antifreeze in his own car had frozen." Prior Peter, the first pastor, celebrated a solemn High Mass, Father Joseph was deacon and preached, and Father Marcellus was subdeacon Prior Peter also spoke briefly recalling some of the joys and sorrows of the pioneer days. Both Father Joseph and Prior Peter cited the parable of the grain of mustard seed, which our Lord had used to foretell the growth of the Church. Despite the cold weather Fathers Bernard, Matthew and Augustine were present. Father Matthew had held services in St. Gregor during the preceeding year to assist Father Marcellus. In the afternoon Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament and the singing of the Te Deum closed the jubilee celebration.

On September 29, 1935, after a High Mass sung by Father Marcellus, Abbot Severin confirmed 83 children of the parish in the afternoon and announced that Father Matthew had been appointed pastor of Engelfeld and that henceforth St Gregor would be attended by him. This arrangement lasted until September 1939, when St Gregor was once again placed in charge of the pastor of Muenster, where it has remained since then. Though there is no resident priest in St. Gregor the parish has regular divine service, two Masses on every Sunday and Holy Day since October 1947, and Mass is celebrated there frequently on week days, especially during the summer when the children receive religious instruction. The present pastor since 1947, is Father Gregory, and Father Alfred is his assistant

Father Marcellus celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination August 5, 1945 in St. Gregory's Church with a solemn High Mass, Fathers Wilfrid and Martin being deacon and subdeacon, and Abbot Severin assisted from the throne in Cappa Magna and delivered the jubilee sermon. Holy Mass, he said, was the highest service man can render Almighty God, and he stressed the necessity of more vocations to the priesthood On leaving the church, three little girls, Mary Kiefer Jeanette Frank and Johanna Schmidt, presented a spiritual bouquet to the jubilarian and Mr. John Raab extended the greetings of the parish and in their name presented a gift. The men's choir sang the "Vivat Pastor Bonus", (Long Live the Good Shepherd) at the beginning of the service and entertained during the meal which the ladies had prepared

The following young ladies of St. Gregory's Parish joined religious communities. Sisters Veronica Plemel, Mercedes Raab and Alexa Taphorn, the Order of St Ursula, Bruno; Sister Patricia Trainor, the Order of St Elizabeth. Humboldt and Sister M Bernardine Trainor, Sisters of St Joseph, Toronto.



St. Gertrude's Mission

St. Gertrude's Parish is one of the oldest and at the same time the youngest. Located 8 miles south east of Muenster on Section 16, township 36 range 21. It had a double beginning, one in 1908 the other in 1946.

On May 10, 1908, Father Peter celebrated the first Mass in the district in Mr. Adam Bunz's log house, section 22, township 36 range 21. After the Mass a meeting was held and the following trustees were elected, Adam Bunz, Henry Bochm and Frank Schuser. The assembled people were in favor of organizing a new parish. Father Peter celebrated Mass in the same place on June 28. At the meeting after this service, it was agreed to build the church on the north-west quarter of section 10 township 36, range 21, owned by Mr. Peter Jos. The projected church was to be 40 x 24, and Messers Leonard Jos and Michael Brunn were elected to join the three trustees and form the building committee. Prior Bruno and Father Peter inspected the site, found it to be centrally located and acceptable. Mr. Adam Bunz and Michael Brunn were in charge of subscriptions, and St. Gertrude, the Seraphic Virgin, a Benedictine saint of the thirteenth century, was chosen as the patroness. Services were held intermittently at the Mission. Records show that Father Boniface visited it August 23, 1908, and Father Casimir on May 29, 1909, and services were held there as late as August 28, 1910. At a meeting in Muenster, September 11, 1910, the parishioners decided that the church should be built on section 16, township 36, range 2., instead of the former site. Mr. F. Heidgerken of Humboldt owned this land and donated five acres for the proposed church. Father Leo visited the mission several times. On July 16, 1911 Father Martin Hoffmann, O.S.B., a brother of Father Dominic, celebrated Mass there. That day a picnic was held. The receipts amounted over $300, and with this sum an attempt was made to build the church. The attempt did not get beyond the construction of a foundation on the site, and then the matter was dropped. Perhaps the real reason for this was the poverty of the parishioners in the district who found it very difficult to open their land in that heavily wooded region. During the intervening years the people asked Father Abbot several times to revive the Mission and in 1946 he found the plan feasible and placed Father Leonard in charge.

The parishioners had begun to collect money for the church in 1945, and on July 7, 1946, Father Augustine had Mass in St. Gertrude's School, located next to the church site. Father Leonard celebrated Mass there on June 22, 29, 1947, July 6, and thereafter regularly until November of the same year when Father Subprior Xavier was put in charge of the Mission, though Father Leonard remained official pastor. Under the supervision of Father Leonard a church 84 by 34 feet with full basement was erected during the summer of 1947. Mr. Jacob Ratkob of St. Gregor was the contractor and the approximate cost of the building was $12,500. Prior Peter blessed the Church October 12, 1947, and sang the solemn High Mass, assisted by Fathers Leonard and George as deacon and sub deacon.

Abbot Severin confirmed 18 boys and girls of St. Gertrude's parish October 10, 1948. Father Leonard celebrated the High Mass and Father Abbot preached the sermon, reminding the parishioners to inculcate a devotion to the Blessed Virgin in the daily recitation of the Family Rosary.

St. Gertrude's Parish honored Father Leonard, August 13, 1950, on the occasion of his silver jubilee. He offered a solemn High Mass of thanksgiving assisted by Fathers Florian and Leo Hinz as deacon and subdeacon. Prior Peter delivered the sermon, mentioning the work Father Leonard had done to establish the parish in the past four years. St. Gertrude's Choir rendered a polyphonic Mass, which they had practiced under the direction of Father Florian. After Benediction, the school children under the direction of Miss Agnes Poelzer, their teacher, sang a song and recited "The Beautiful Hands of a Priest." Six little girls offered congratulations in the name of the parish. Mr. Leo Bianch, one of the trustees, made three presenta-

tions, one each from the young people, the Christian Mothers, and the parishioners. In reply Father Leonard said that as pastor he was chiefly interested in the spiritual welfare of his people and pointed to the need of prayer shown in the Fatima apparitions of the Blessed Virgin. Father Xavier spoke briefly and congratulated the people for their cooperation with the pastor and the neighboring parish of St. Scholastica.

The trustees of the parish since its refounding are Messrs. Bernard Loehr, Leo Blanch and John Pape. The congregation consists of about 40 families. Sister Maureen Maier has joined the Ursulines at Bruno. Abbot Severin again visited the parish September 28, 1952 and confirmed 17 boys and 11 girls. That morning he had confirmed 22 boys and 34 girls at St. Scholastica.

Church of St. Gertrude, Muenster.

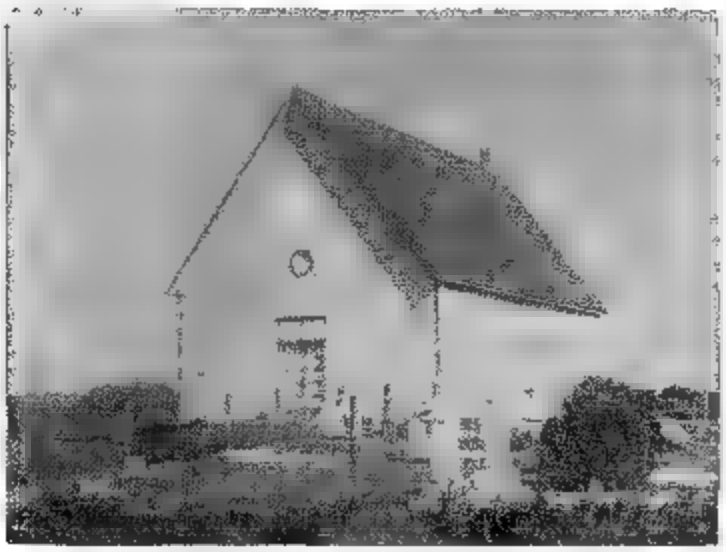
St. Patrick's Mission

St Patrick's Church, is located on section 14, township 35, range 21, seventeen miles southeast of Muenster. 8 miles southeast of St Gertrude's Parish, and seven miles west of Leroy In 1904 and 1905 Father J. C. Sinnett, a secular priest of the diocese of Prince Albert, brought a group of settlers from Ontario, into the district south of St Peter's Colony, township 34, range 20 and 21 north of Lanigan. The first settlers of the district were Wm Knaus, Valentine Sovenski, Jos. Koski, John Tallen, Mames Devine, Angus McDonald, Louis Hall, George Anstett, Joseph Anstett, Harold Hall, and the Doyle family. The settlement was called the Irish Colony and in its center Father Sinnet established his parish house and church, dedicated to St. Ignatius of Loyola. The town which grew up nearby was named Sinnet in honor of the founder Father Sinnett visited the settlers in the southern part of St. Peter's Colony and established a mission 2 miles north of his colony, within the territory of St. Peter's Colony. He directed his settlers to go to Muenster and from there they trekked south to their homesteads

When the cornerstone was laid for St Peter's College in June 1921, Father Sinnett gave an eloquent talk. He had a high regard for the Jesuit Order, dedicated his church at Sinnett to St. Ignatius, and called the place of the mission in St Peter's Colony Manresa, though St. Patrick had been chosen its patron. In his later years he joined the Jesuits at Guelph, Ontario. Subsequent pastors of Sinnett and St Patrick's Mission were: Fathers Albert Chatel, 1922-1923, Bernard, F Corcoran 1924-1926, A J McMillan, 1924, J. A. Pierre, 1926, J O'Leary, 1926, A Perraut, 1927-1931, Francis Gallery, 1931, Wilfred Dumphy, 1931-1941, Jerome Volk, 1941-1945, C. Junker, 1945 1949, Felix Juzyne, September 1949 to the present The present trustees are Tom Gresty, Louis Knaus, Ignatius Paproski, with Caesar Verbeke as secretary

The first High Mass recorded at St. Patrick's Church was sung on November 17, 1926 by Father J O'Leary Abbot Severin paid his first visit to St Patrick's Mission July 31, 1932, when he confirmed 23 children and 3 adults. Since the little church was unable to hold all the visitors a solemn High Mas was celebrated in the open. Father Dumphy and Father Francis assisted Father Abbot who preached the sermon. After the function the Abbot distributed souvenir pictures of his silver jubilee of the priesthood to all the faithful, and medals of St Benedict to the servers, the confirmed and the choir

The last time Father Abbot administered confirmation at the Mission was on September 21, 1952, when he confirmed 27 persons. Plans are going ahead to improve the church by 1955, the year of the golden jubilee of the Mission. The parishioners are hoping to build a ful basement and to add a tower and vestibule



Church of St. Patrick

DOUBLE JUBILEE OF
ABBOT-ORDINARY SEVERIN O. S. B

A happy and solemn event was the golden jubilee of profession and the silver jubilee as Abbot which Abbot Severin observed on July 11, 1952 the feast of the Solemnity of St Benedict. Fifty years ago, on the same date and feast, he had made his profession as a Benedictine monk, and twenty five years ago, on May 4. 1927, he had been blessed and installed as the third Abbot of St Peter's Abbey by Bishop Joseph Prud'homme of Prince Albert

Participating in the joyful ceremonies with the Fathers and people of the Abbey Nullius were Archbishop M C. O'Neil, of Regina, and Metropolitan of the Abbey Nullius, Archbishop P J Pocock of Winnipeg, Bishop Reginald Duprat, O.P., resigned Bishop of Prince Albert, Bishop Leo F Dworschak, Auxiliary Bishop of Fargo. N D Bishop Andrew Roberecki, of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Diocese of Saskatchewan, Bishop Francis J Klein of Saskatoon. Archabbot Denis Strittmatter, O S B St Vincent Archabby, Latrobe, Pa the Rt Rev Msgrs. L Lussier Ponteix J A Boucher, Prince Albert, J E Cahill, Winnipeg. Among those occupying reserved seats in the church were two brothers of the jubilarian and three sisters, Father Innocent, O.S.B., of St John's Abbey and Father Norbert O S.B of St Paul Minn., Sisters Waltrudis. Venerands and Devota O.S.B, of St. Benedict's Convent, St Joseph, Minn. (Four other sisters of the jubilarian, Sisters Urban, Gemma, Assumpta and Cecile, O.S.B., of St Joseph's Convent, St Joseph, Minn., sent a congratulatory telegram signed, "The Other Five", the fifth one being Father Abbot's sister Agatha, postmistress of St Joseph.) About 50 priests, diocesan clergy and representatives of seven religious orders and congregations were present. Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus formed a guard of honor

The Pontifical High Mass of thanksgiving was offered at 10:00 Prior Peter was assistant priest, Fathers Leonard and Augustine were deacons of honor, two newly ordained deacons of St. Peter's Abbey, Fathers James Gray and Vincent Morrison were deacon and subdeacon. Fathers Xavier and Jerome were masters of ceremonies and the Abbey choir sang under the direction of Father Leander Archbishop O'Neil officiated at the renewal of vows, after which the jubilarian, with arms outstretched, chanted verse 116 of Psalm 118 thrice "Uphold me, O Lord, according to Thy word and I shall live and let me not be confounded in my expectation." The Archbishop then presented a gilded staff, saying. "Brother Severin, receive this blessed staff, which represents the Cross of Christ as a support of your advanced age, and henceforth may you use it not so much for the support of your bodily strength as rather for the obtaining of spiritual fortitude from Our Saviour, Jesus Christ against our adversaries. both visible and invisible Who has called us to Himself, in the Gospel saying, 'Come to me, all ye that labor, and are burdened, and I will refresh you.'" After the renewal of vows, Bishop Dworschak, former pupil of the jubilarian, delivered a sermon on the spirit of St. Benedict "St Benedict told his monks," the speaker said in part, "that they could find peace only through obedience. Obedience is the heart and soul of the Benedictine spirit . No man has ever achieved peace and freedom for himself by substituting his own selfish desires for the law of God Ora et labora - pray and work is not only the motto of the Benedictines. . . it is an ideal that is universal in its application."

Group Outline Map of Abbot Executive: Left to right: Father Augustine, Father Jerome, Most Rev. M. C. O'Neill, D. Sup. Brendan Sheehan, S.S.E. and Fr. Vincent

After the jubilee Mass Prior Peter announced that the Holy Father had directed Msgr. J. B. Montini, Substitute Papal Secretary of State, to send Father Abbot the following letter: "The August Pontiff, acceding to the request of the Most Reverend Bernard Kaelin, Abbot-Primate of the Benedictine Order, submitted to His Holiness in a letter of dutiful homage, stating that you are about to commemorate the happy completion of fifty years since pronouncing religious vows, and of twenty five years since assuming the Abbatial office, grants to you the faculty of imparting the Papal Benediction once to the faithful, observing the customary prescribed form. His Holiness, sincerely desiring for you a daily more abundant harvest of virtue and the never failing solace of holy joy, blesses you with overflowing love, and He prays that God may pour out over you and your community an abundance of the light and the treasure of His Divine Wisdom." Immediately after the reading of this letter Father Abbot imparted the Papal blessing.

After the services the clergy, the sisters and representative laymen attended the banquet prepared by the Sisters of St. Elizabeth in the College auditorium. Father Bernard, pastor of Bruno, was toastmaster, the Abbey choir provided musical interludes, and Father Leander Dosch, O.S.B., the youngest Father of the Abbey, extended the congratulations of the community to Father Abbot. Representatives from the 32 parishes and missions presented gifts to be devoted to the building of suitable confessionals on Mount Carmel. Prior Peter presented a spiritual bouquet from all the parishes as also from the children of St. Patrick's Orphanage, Prince Albert. Many congratulatory messages were read, including telegrams from His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan, Archbishop Baudoux of St. Boniface, the Abbot and community of St. John's Abbey and others. Banquet speakers were Archbishop O'Neill, Archbishop Pocock, Bishop Klein, Bishop Duprat, Bishop Dworschak, Msgr. Lussier, representing Bishop Lemieux of Gravelbourg, Dr. J. F. Leddy, Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan, and Archabbot Denis. To represent St. Vincent's Archabbey, the motherhouse of the American Cassinese Benedictines, Archabbot Denis came by plane from New York City to Saskatoon.

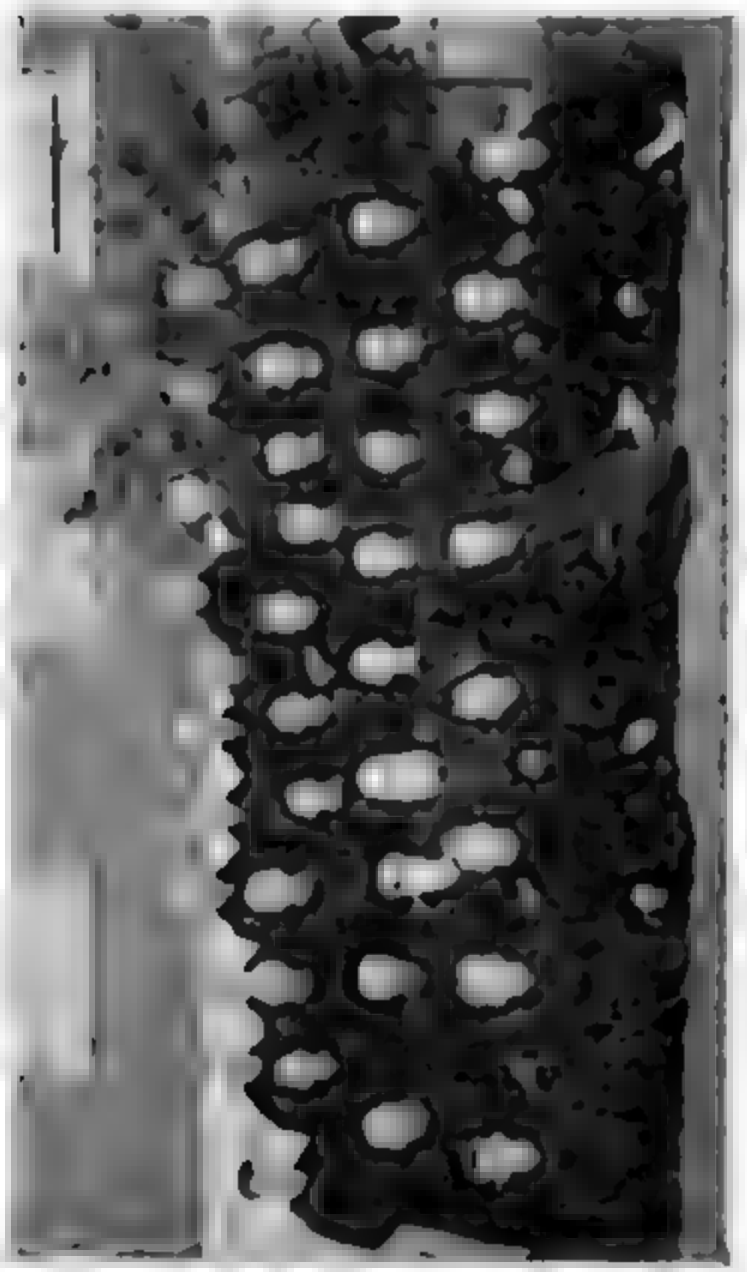
In his reply Father Abbot thanked all those present, especially Archbishop O'Neill who was largely responsible for organizing the celebration. Touching on his favorite topic, the mystical Body of Christ, Father Abbot pointed out how Christ needs His members just as His members need Christ. Christ could do much more, he added, "if all members would give themselves wholeheartedly to Christ. . . . He can do great things with ordinary tools."

"Obey your prelates and be subject to them. For they watch as being to render an account of your souls; that they may do this with joy and not with grief." This is the admonition St. Paul gives to the Hebrews (13, 17) and St. Benedict in his Rule says of the Abbot, "Let him imitate the loving example of the Good Shepherd, who leaving the ninety-nine sheep on the mountains went to seek one which had gone astray, on whose weakness he had such compassion that He vouchsafed to lay it on His sacred shoulders, and thus bring it back to the flock" (Chapter 27).

Abbot Severin, during the past twenty six years as Ordinary of the Abbey Nullius, has faithfully fulfilled the admonitions of St. Paul and St. Benedict, both by his own constant endeavors and through the ministry of his priests. He has addressed his people on occasions too numerous to mention, and often was called upon by individuals and groups outside his territory, as at the Rosary Crusade, the consecration of Bishop Klein in Regina, etc. In 1951 he conducted the retreat of over 70 seminarians at the Basilian Seminary in Toronto, Ont.

Besides the confirmations mentioned in the preceding sketches, this sacrament was administered to a recorded total of 6165 by Abbot Severin in the period from 1933 to 1952.

U I O C. D



Conclusion

As the years roll by, and more and more of the first settlers pass on, the events narrated in the preceding pages tend to become forgotten or at least obscured in retelling. That is why this account of the ecclesiastical history of St. Peter's Colony as set down here becomes more and more valuable. Through Prior Peter's eyes we have seen the Colony founded. We could hear the first axe strokes in the wilderness as the settlers carved out their livelihood. We heard the sweet tones of the first bells ring out, echoing through the sparsely settled land, bringing the consolations of religion to those intrepid pioneers staking their future under unknown condition. We saw the distant smoke on the horizon as the first railway line crept through the territory, saving the settlers sixty or eighty miles in their trips to obtain needed supplies. We admired through his eyes the helpful cooperation between neighbors that existed in those days, reminding us that it is up to us to continue such a tradition.

Much has been accomplished in the past fifty years. So much so, that many an old-timer who has been gone for some time and revisits the scenes he used to know so well finds it almost impossible to locate familiar landmarks. The woods, trails, glens and prairies have vanished or have been transformed. In their place he sees regular roads, flourishing farmsteads, broad rolling acres of cultivated land. The little churches in which he worshipped have almost all (with one exception, the first church, Leofeld) undergone change. They have either been rebuilt or enlarged or moved to another locality. Most of these old-timers spend considerable time visiting the cemeteries, for it is there that they find the names and the mortal remains of most of their friends of former years.

We who benefit from the labor of those who have gone before must be reminded of the thought of an Egyptian proverb. For the success of the present we are in great measure indebted to the work of those who have gone before us. To them must go the credit for much that we accomplish. They have set us an example, which, if we would follow it, will take our best efforts.

F. R.

SECT. JUL 24

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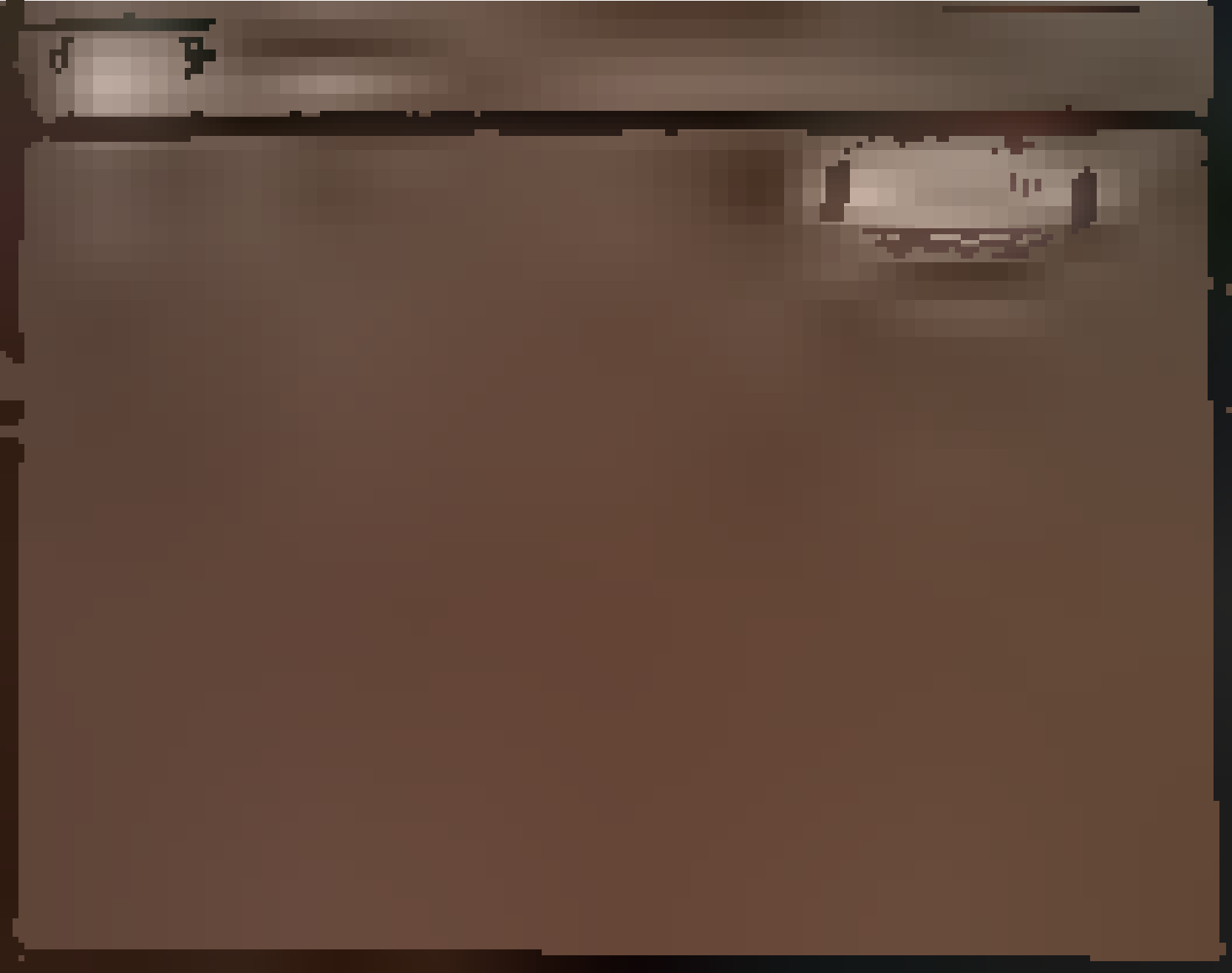

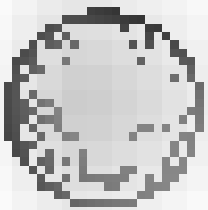

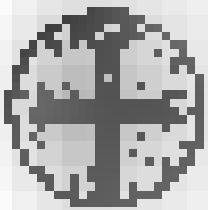

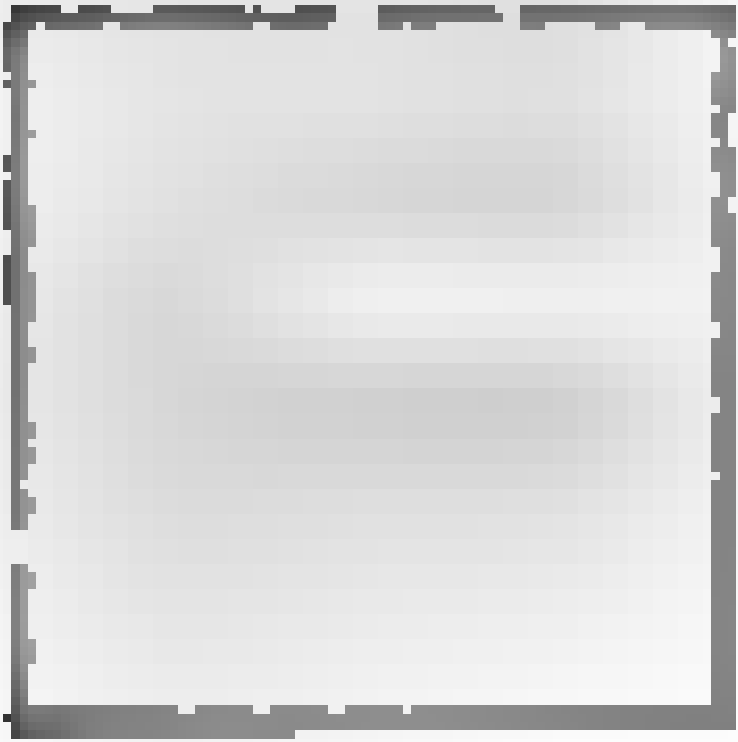

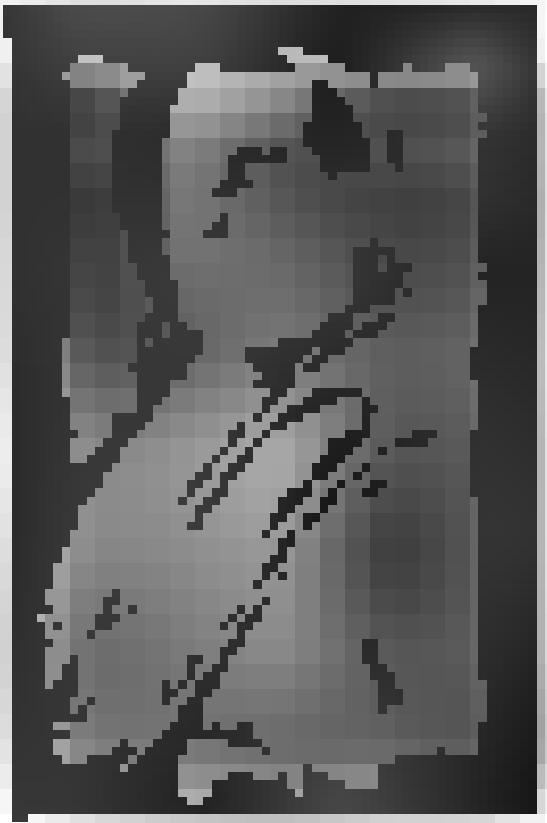

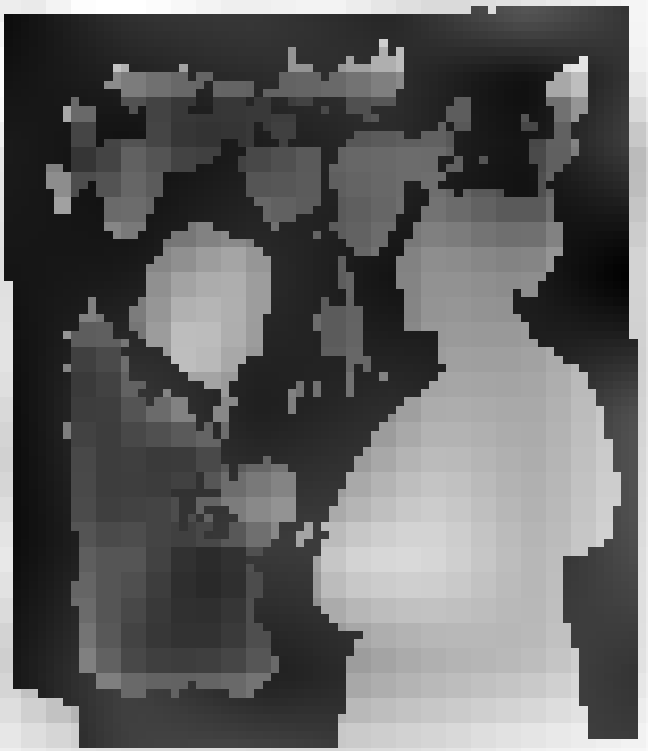

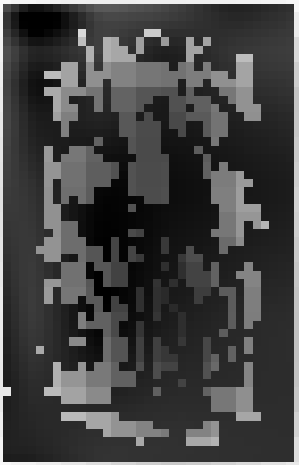

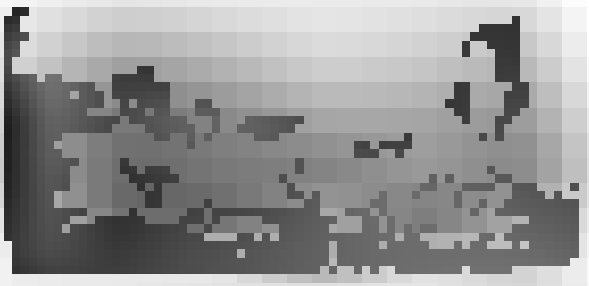

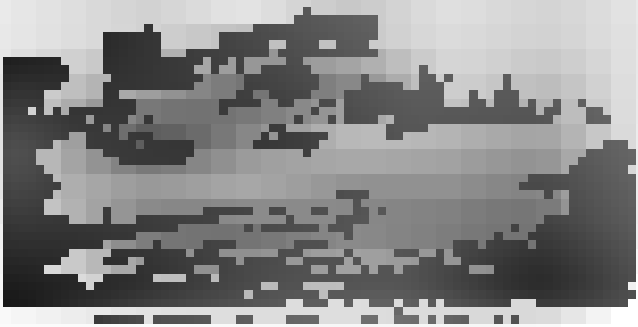

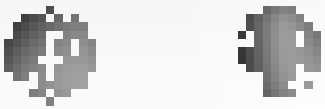

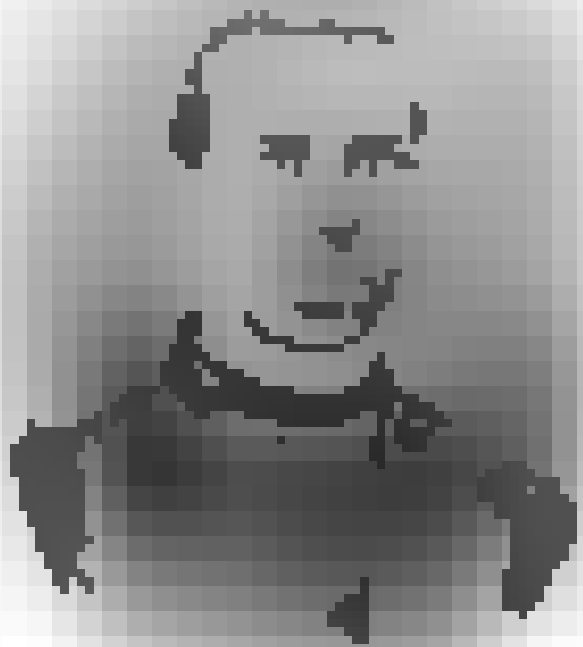

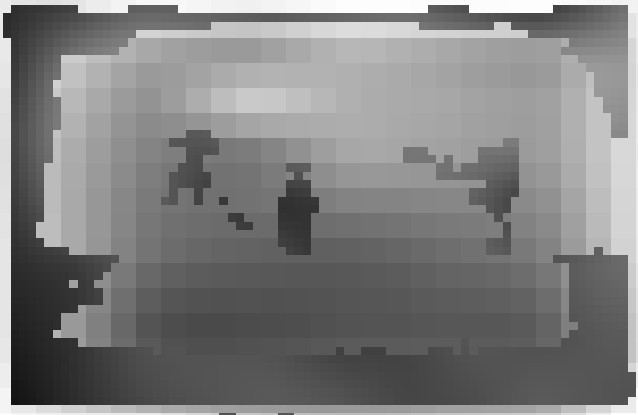

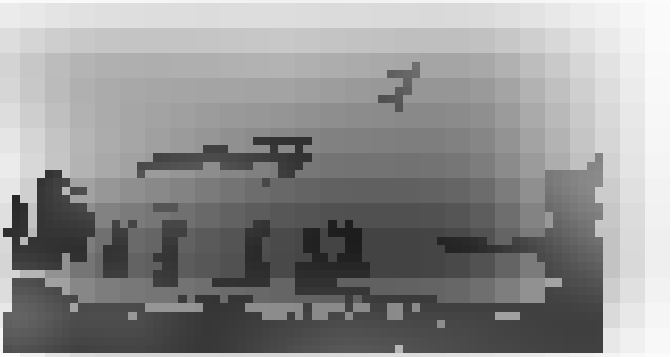

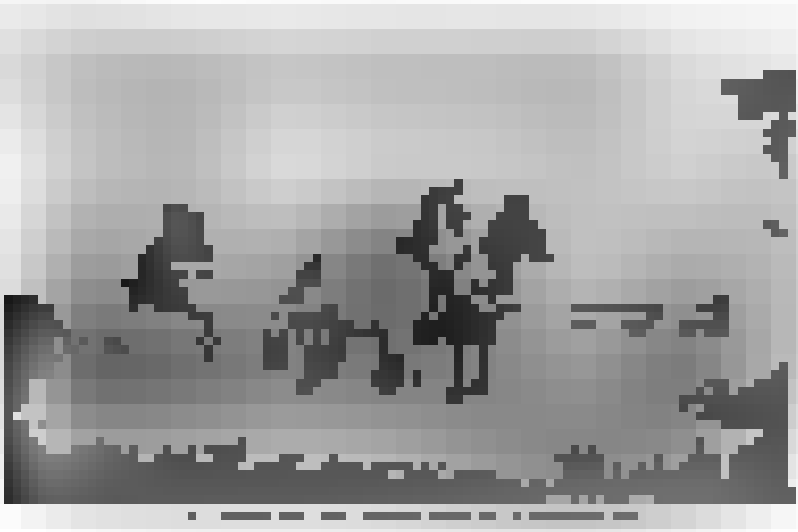

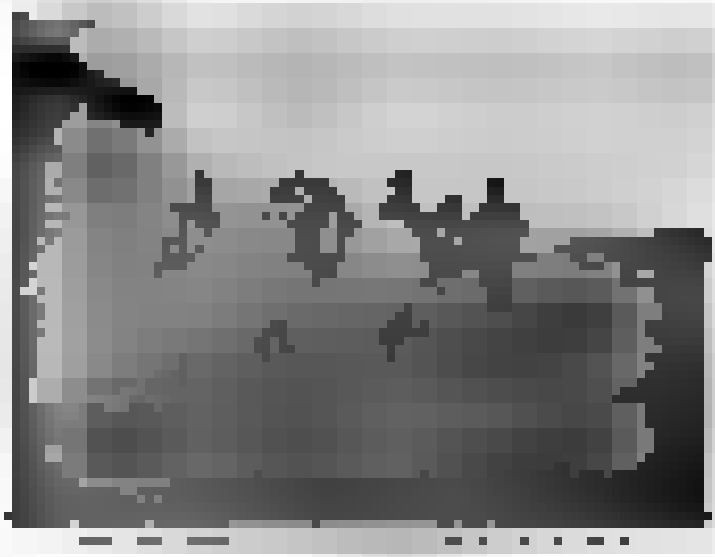

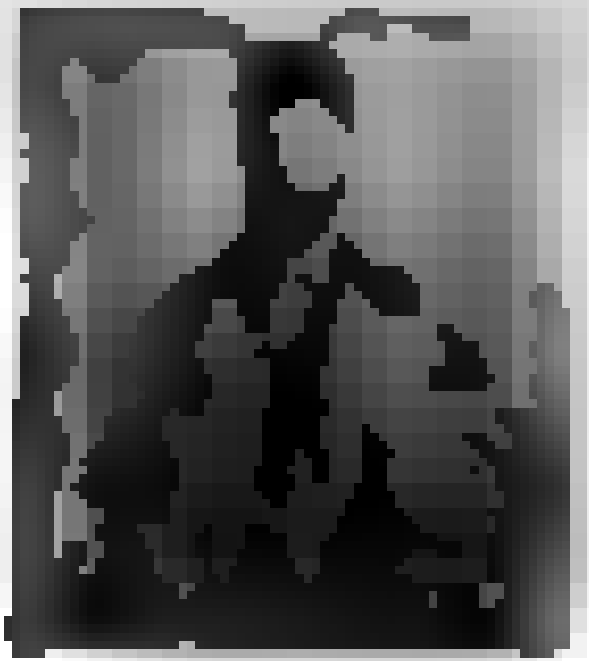

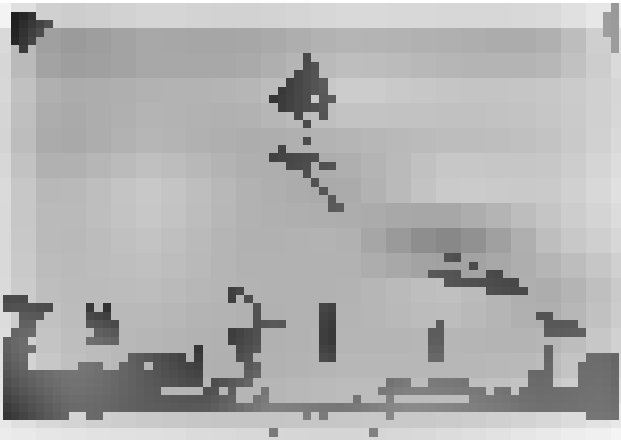

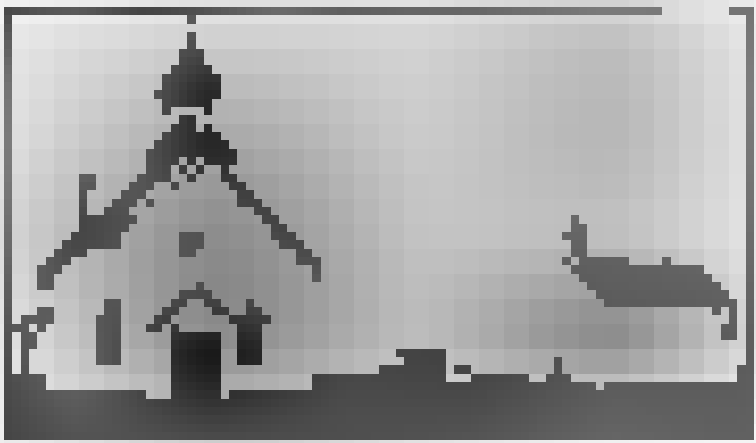

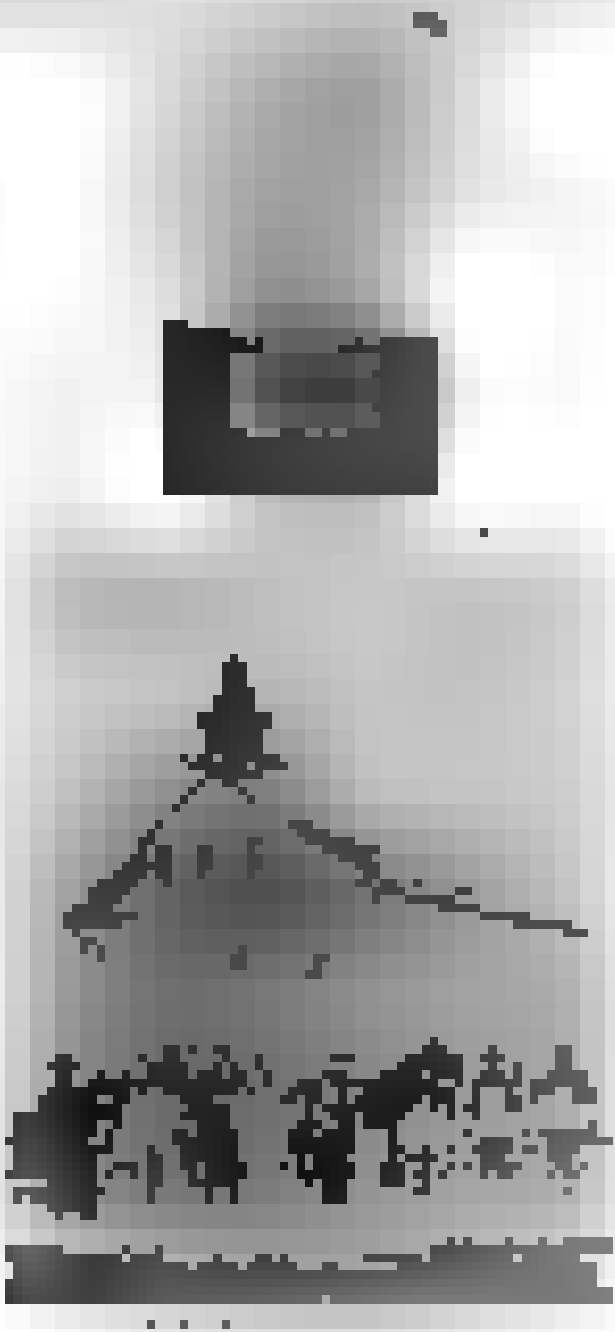

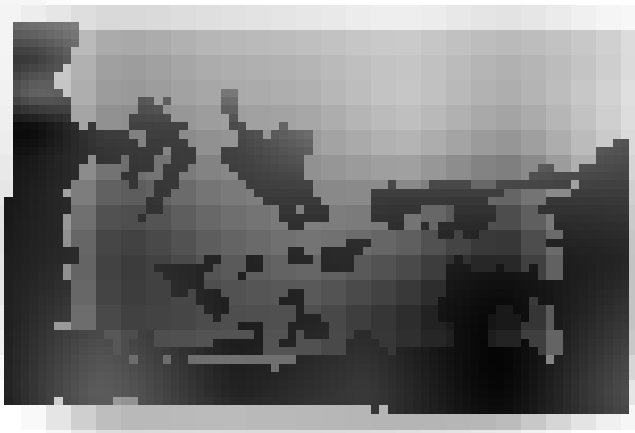

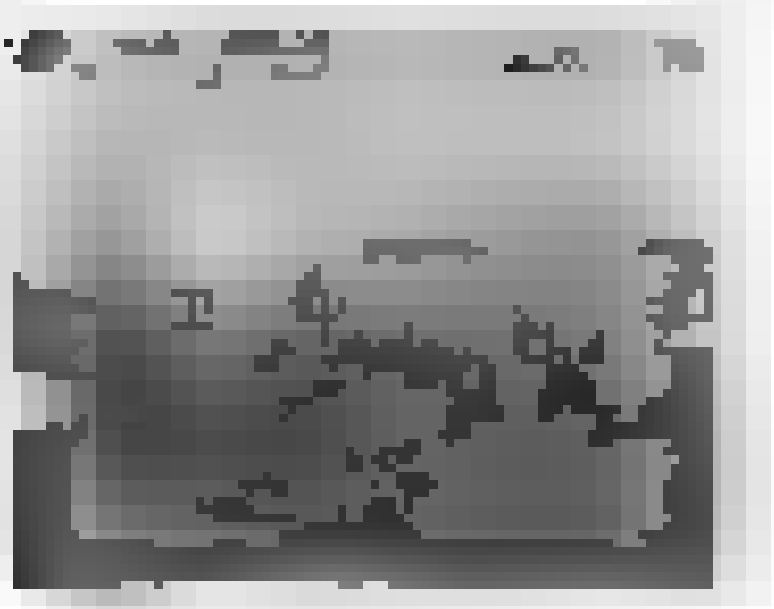

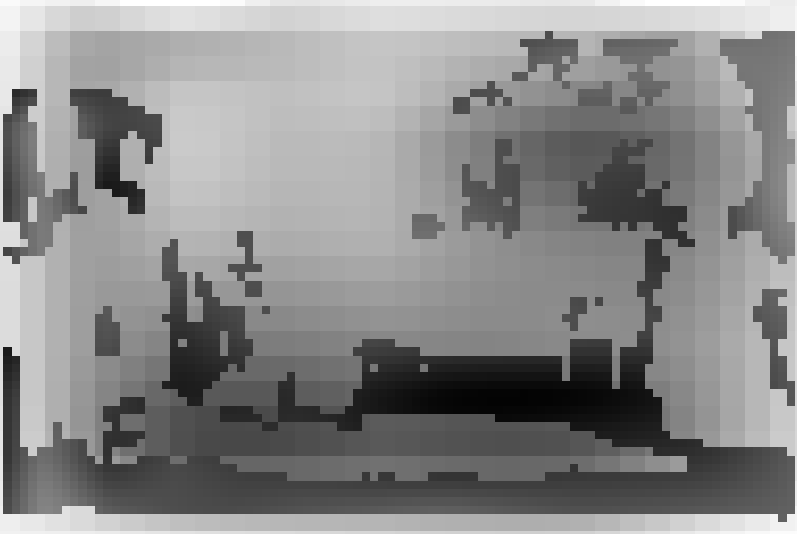

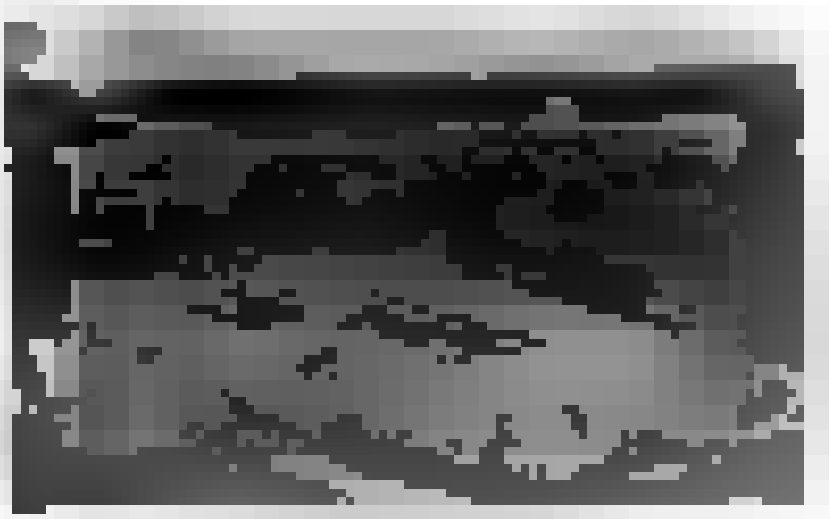

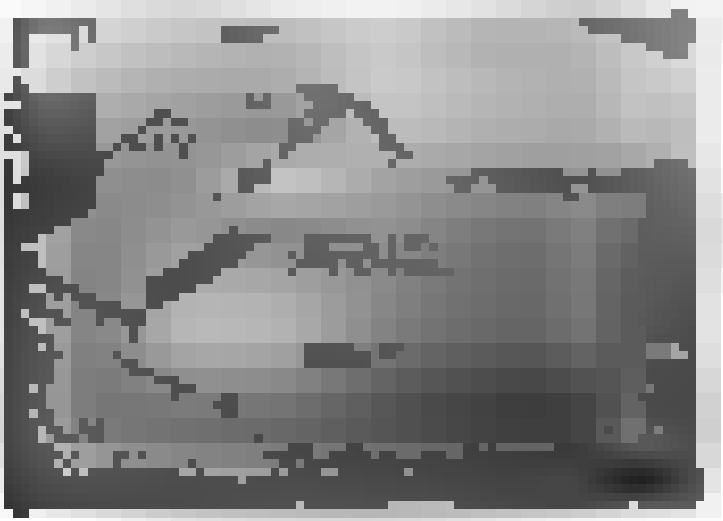

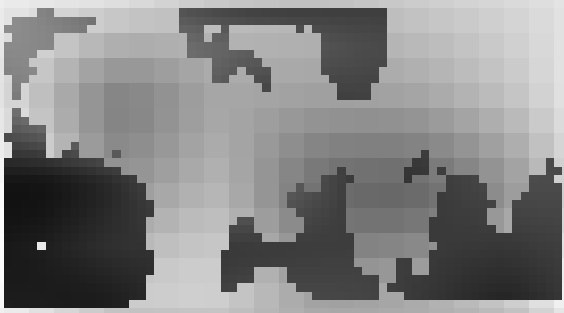

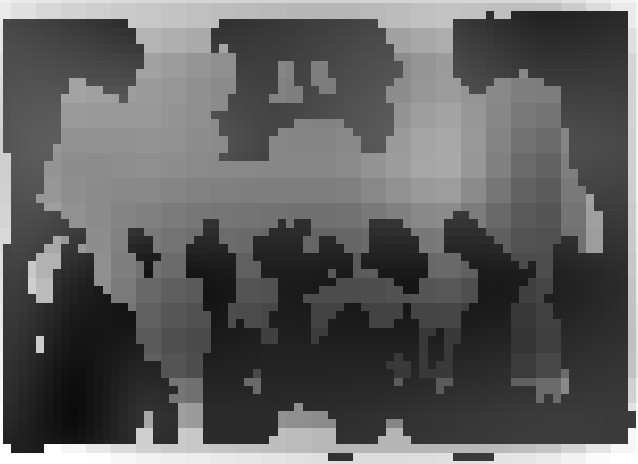

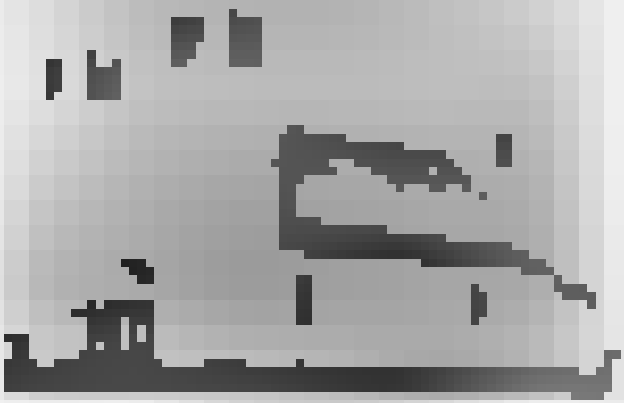

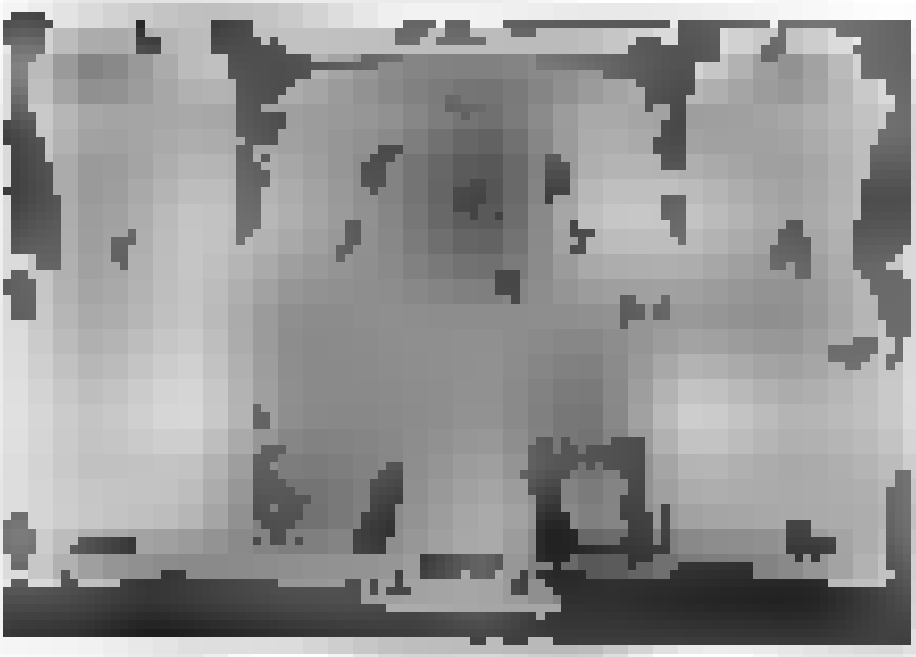

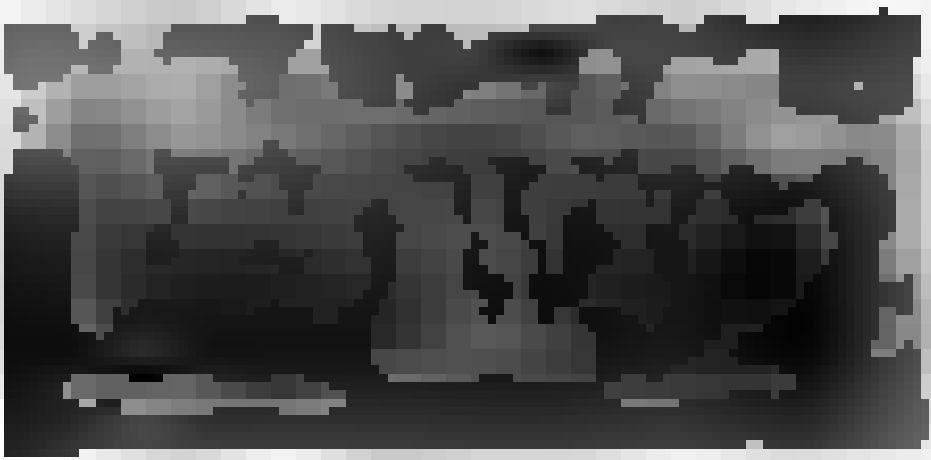

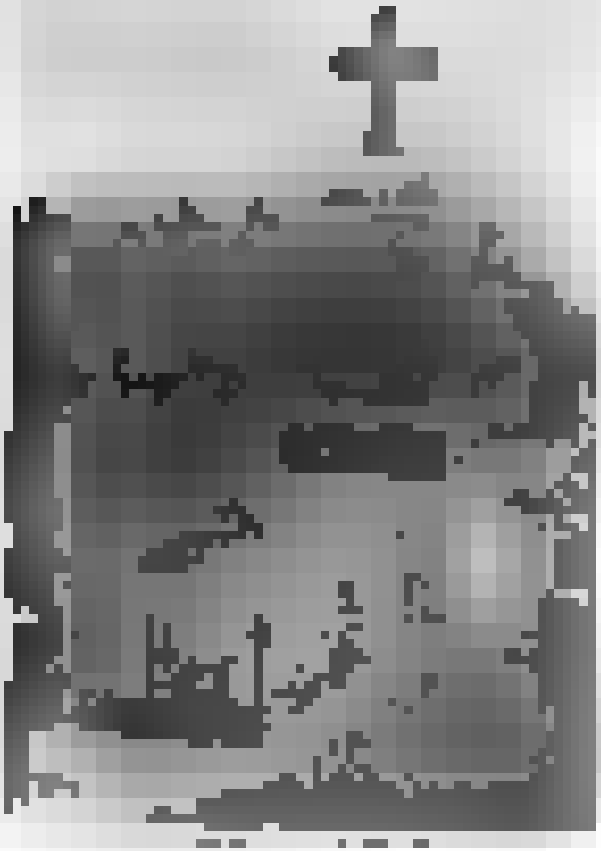

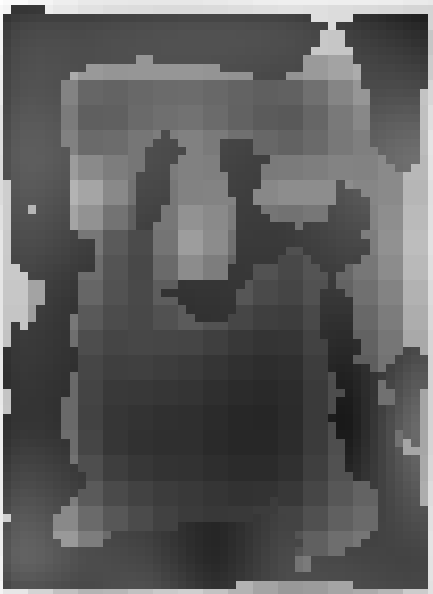

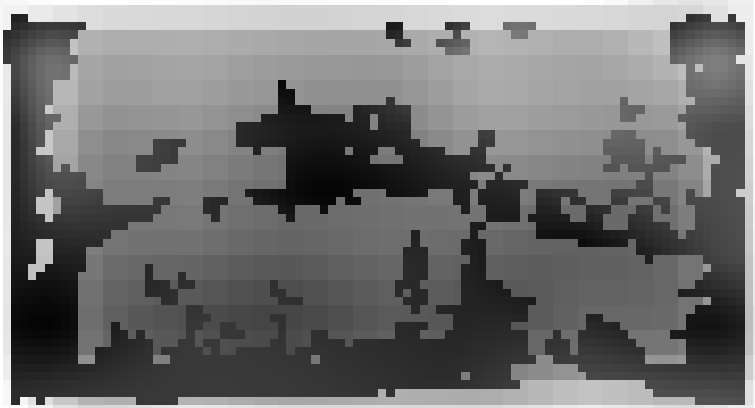

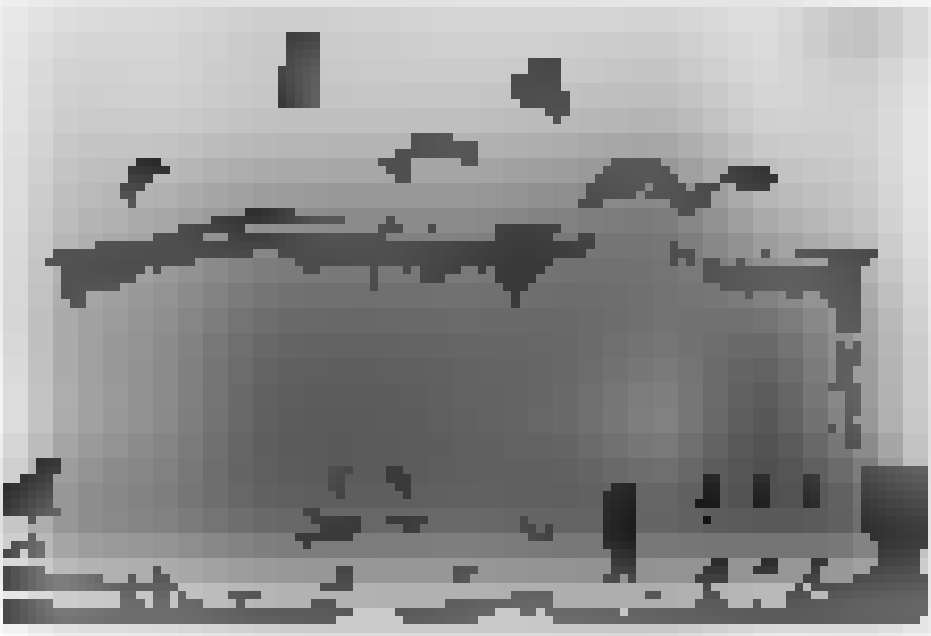

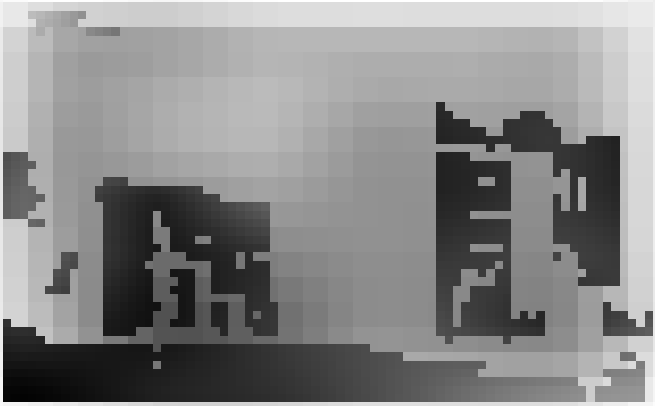

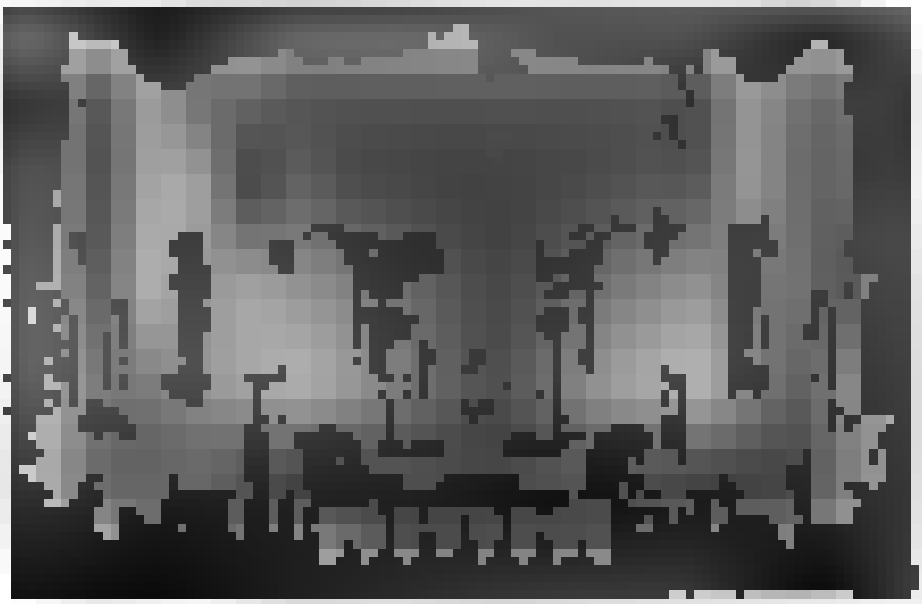

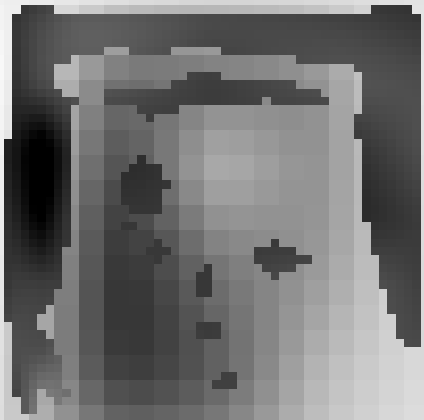

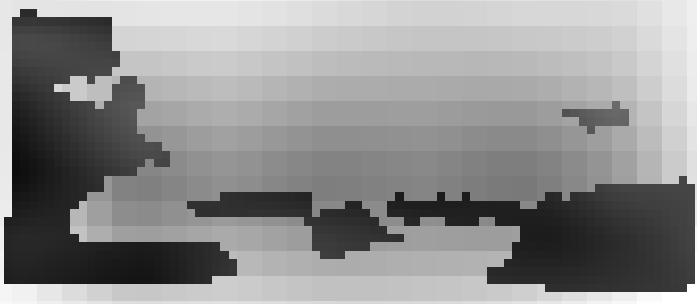

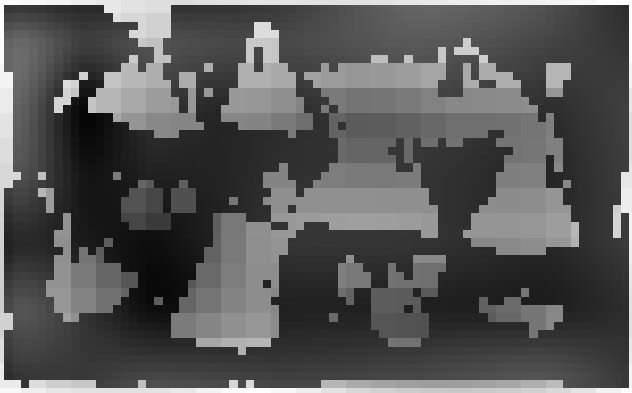

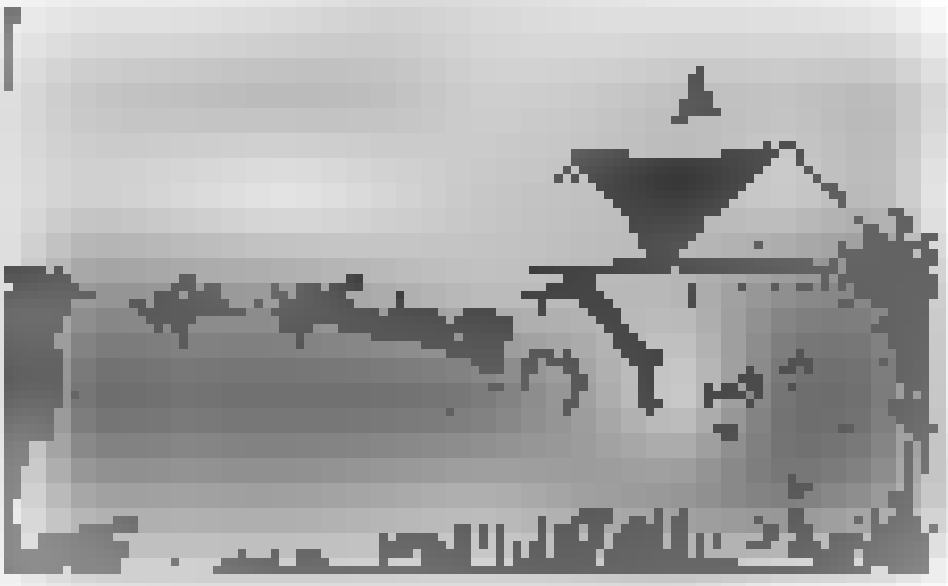

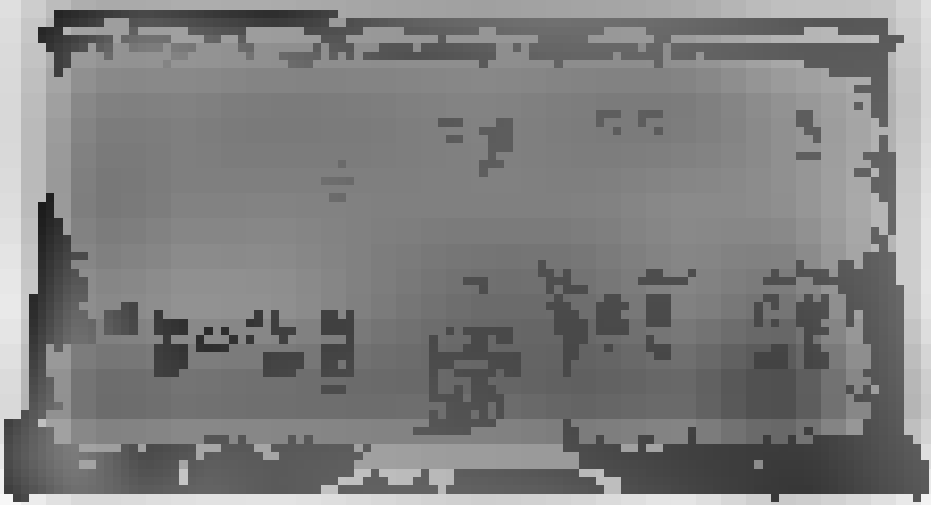

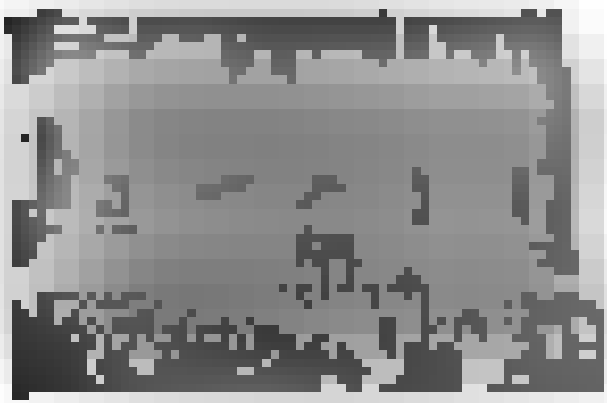

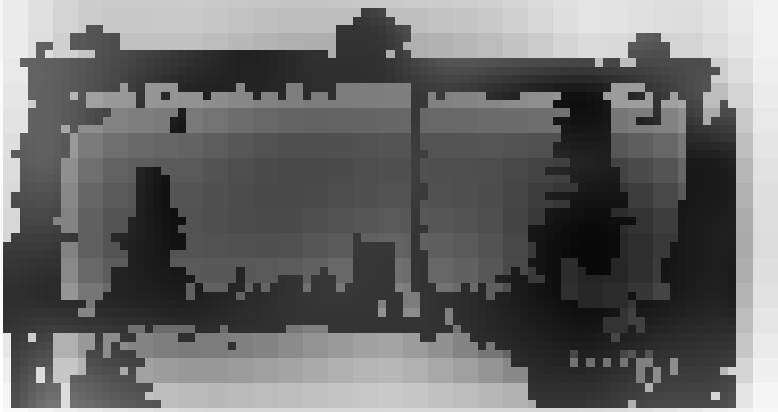

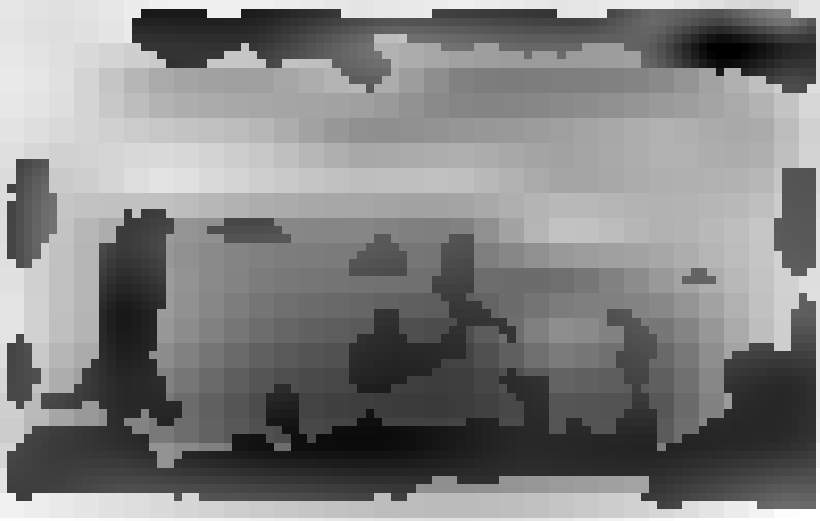

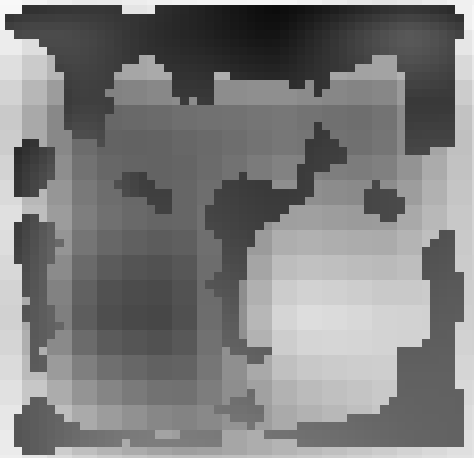

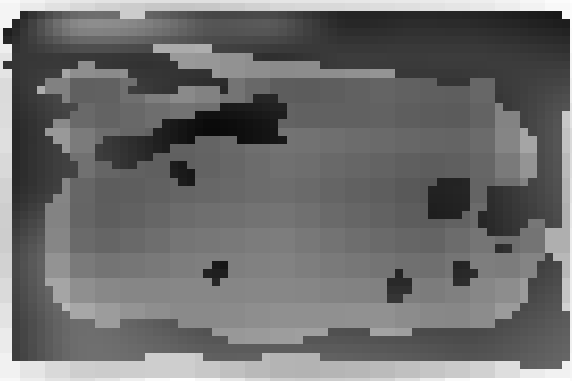

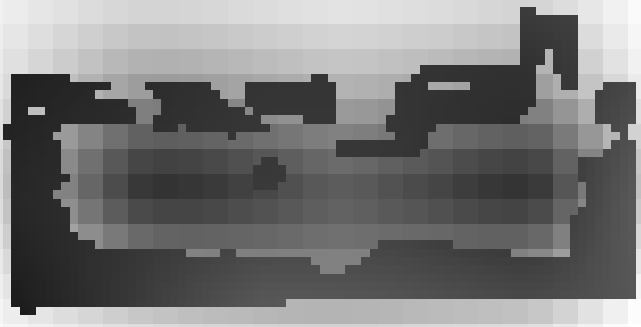

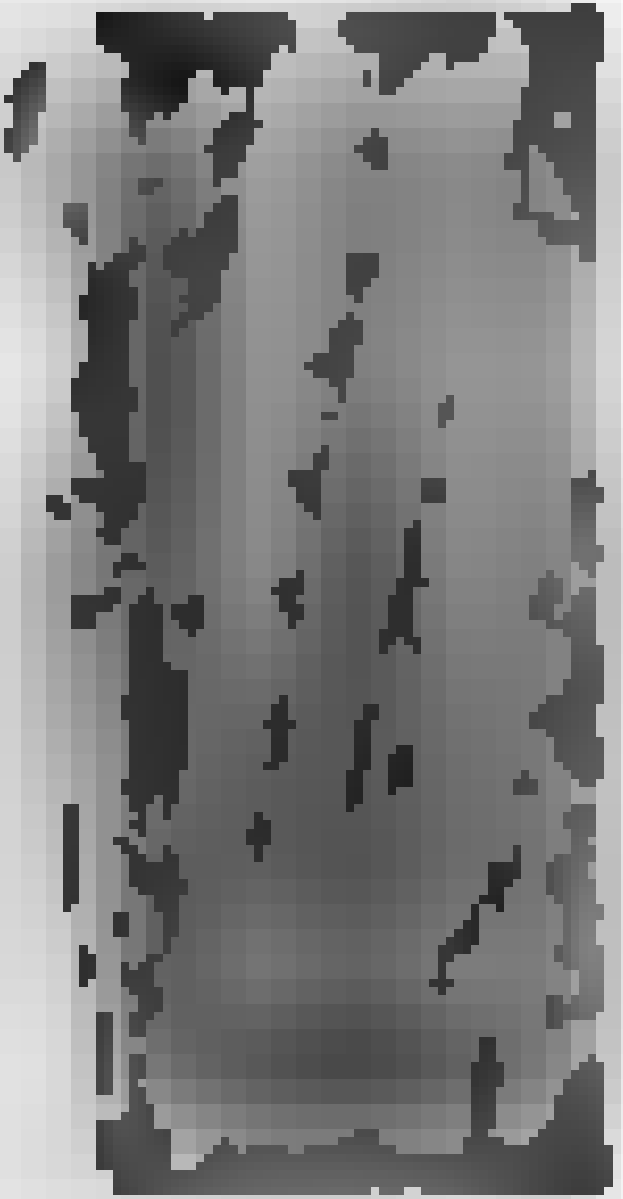

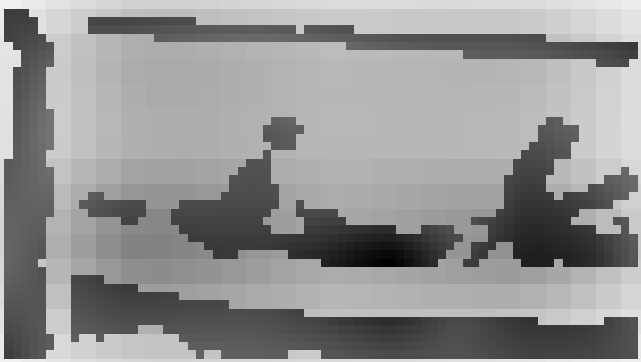

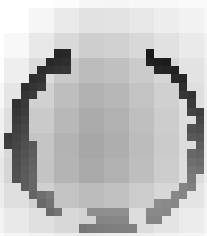

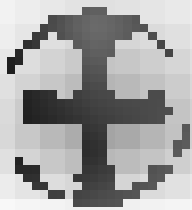

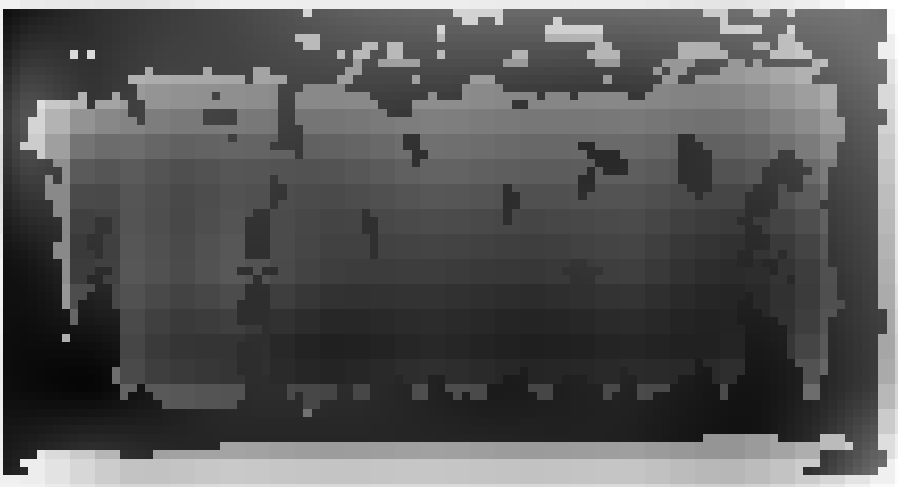

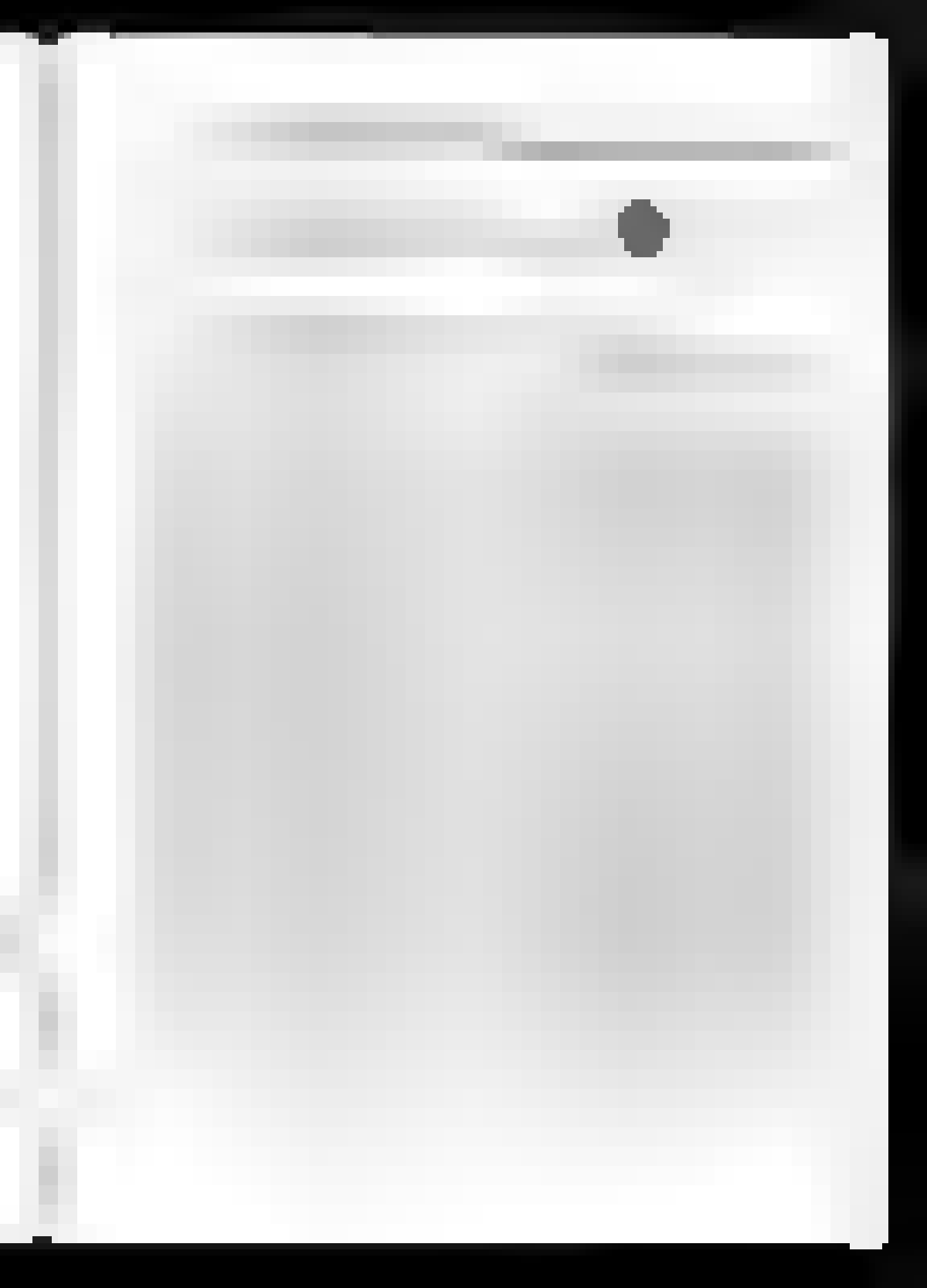

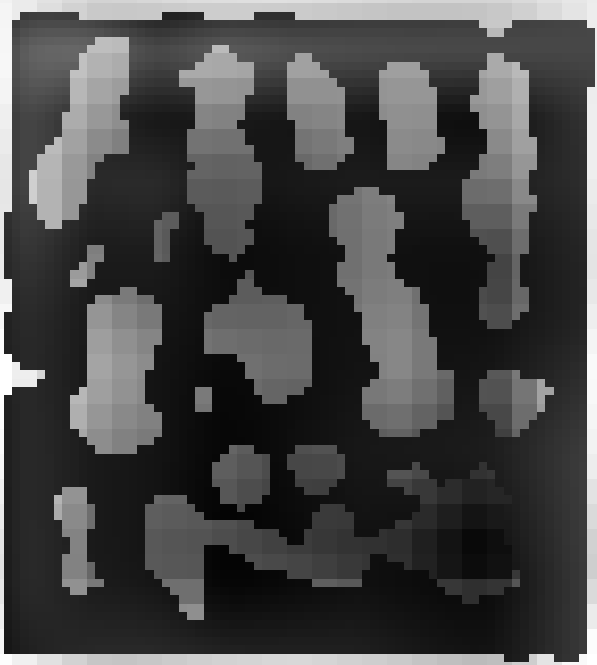

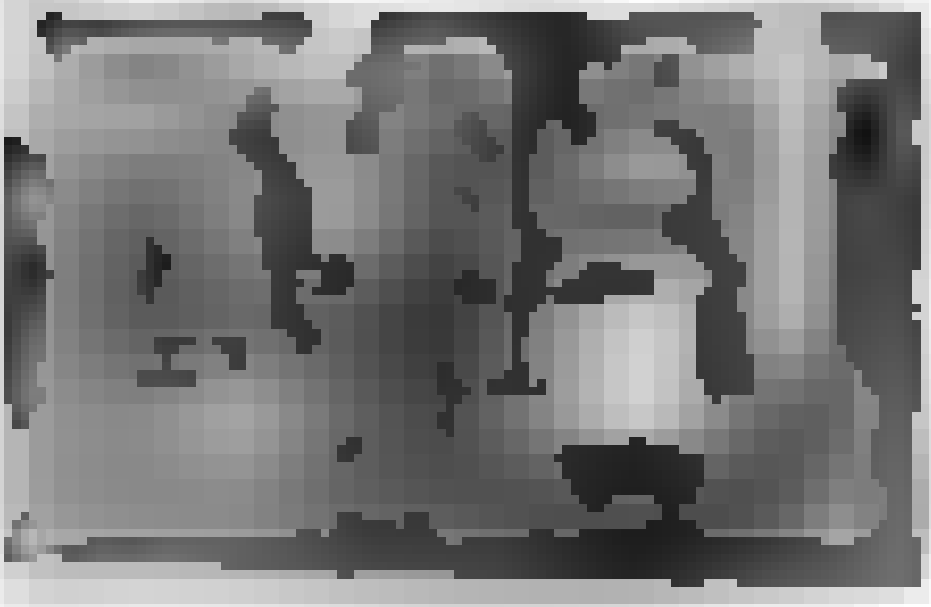

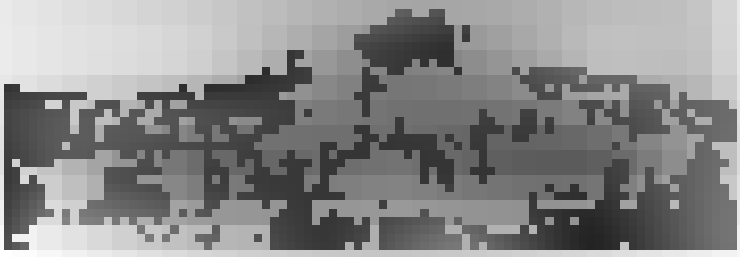

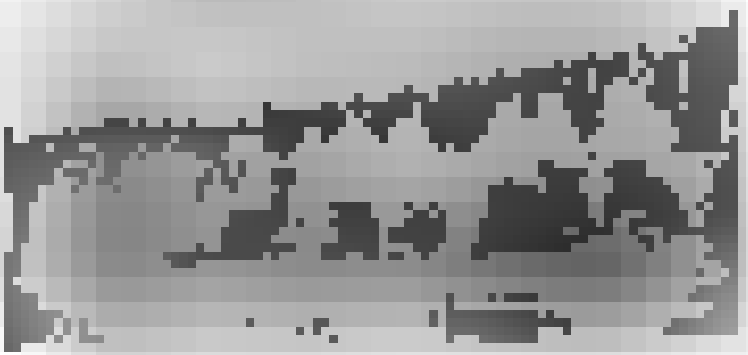

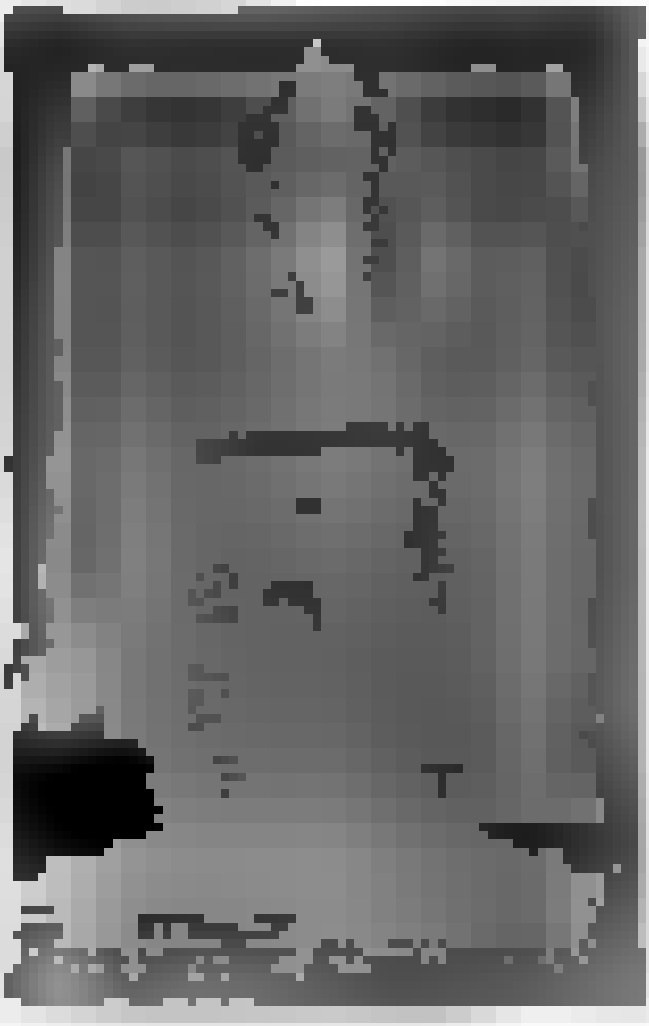

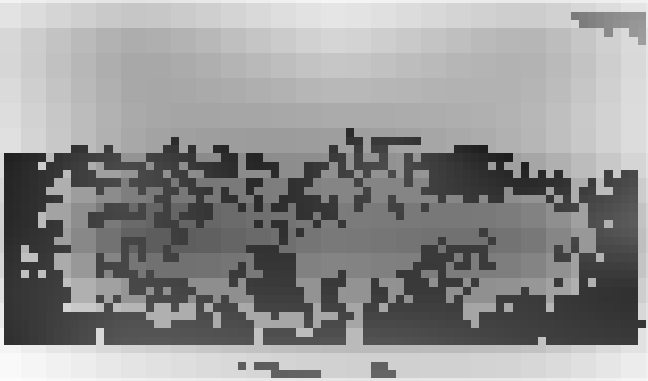

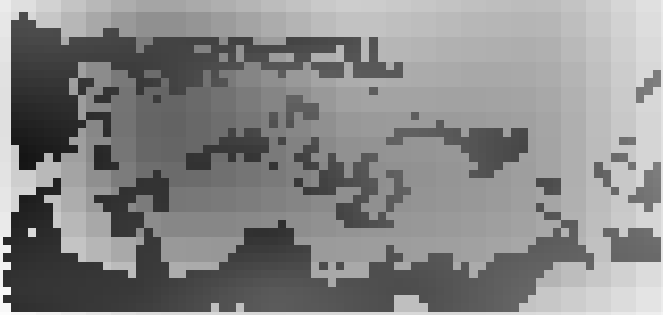

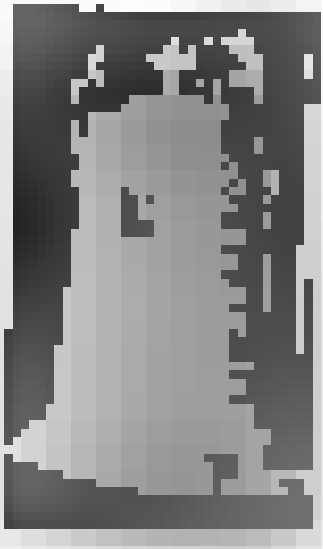

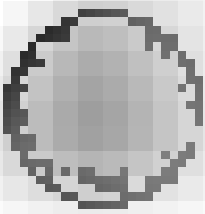

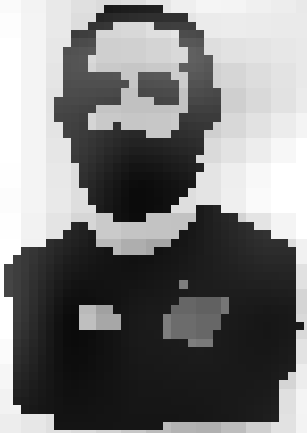

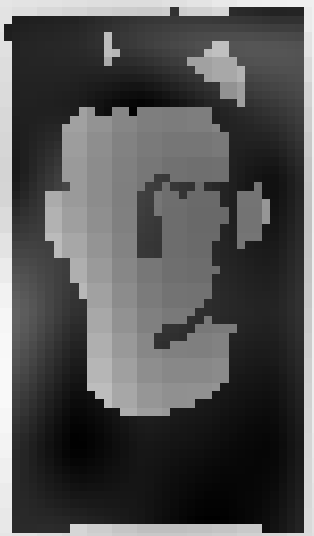

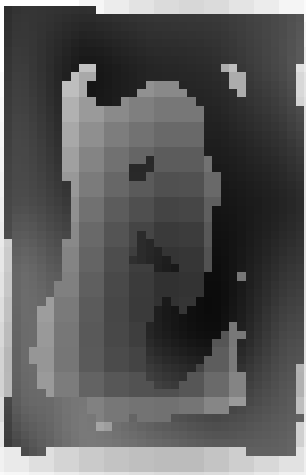

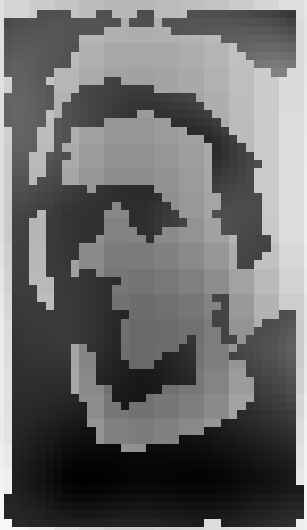

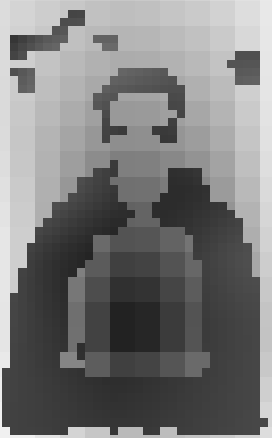

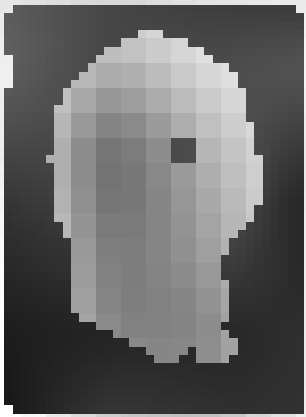

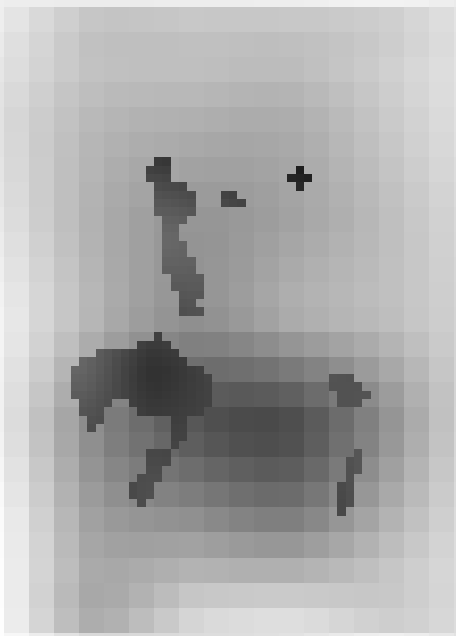

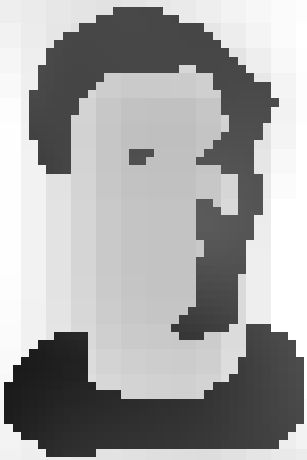

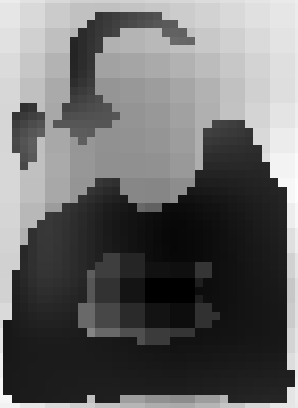

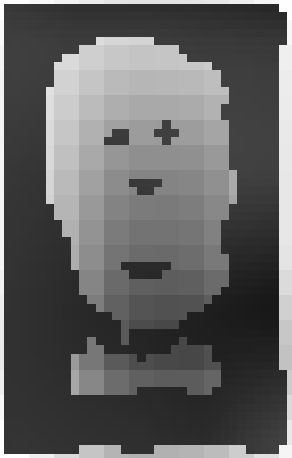

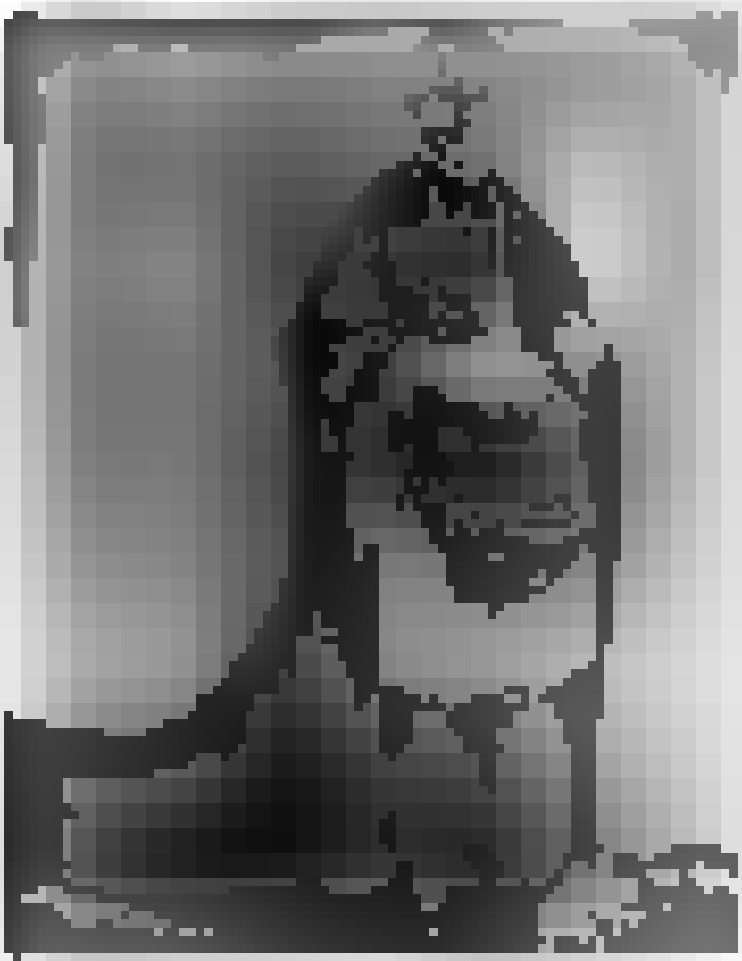

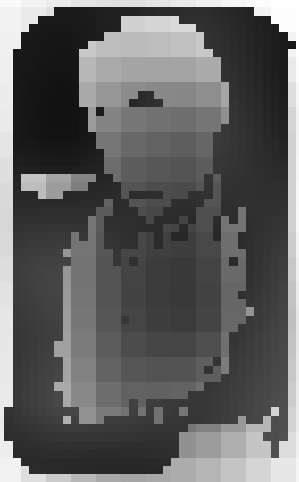

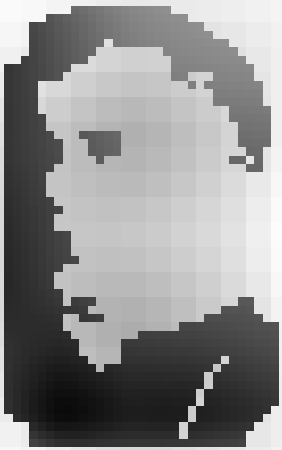

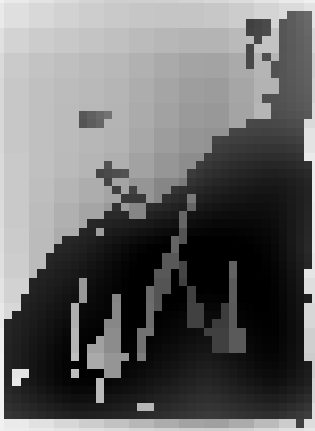

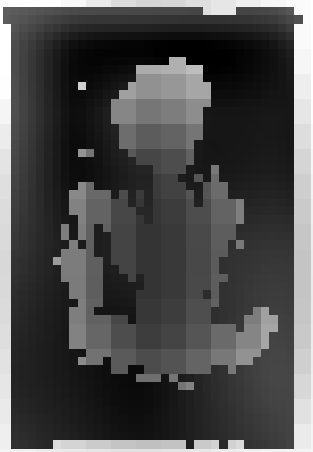

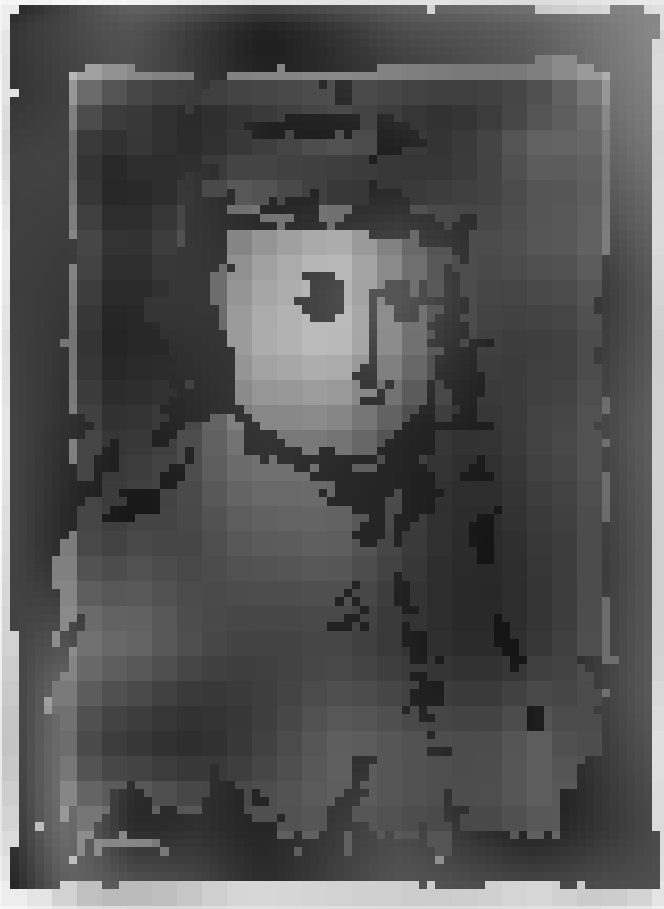

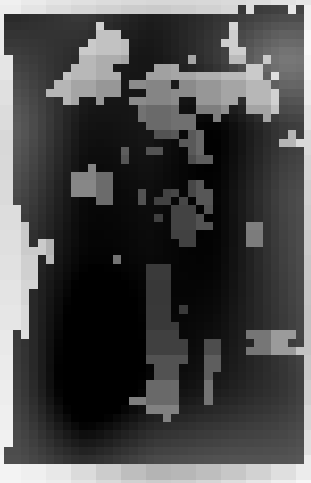

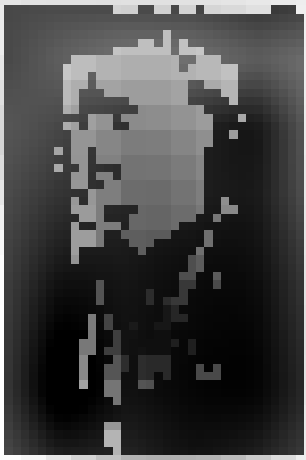

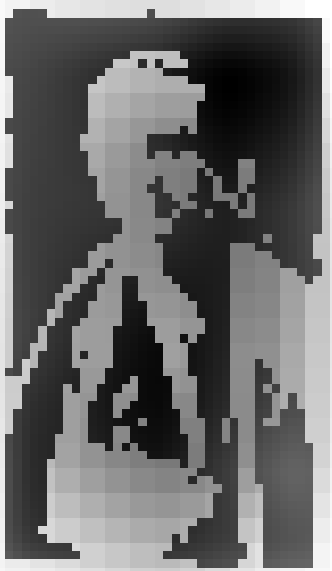

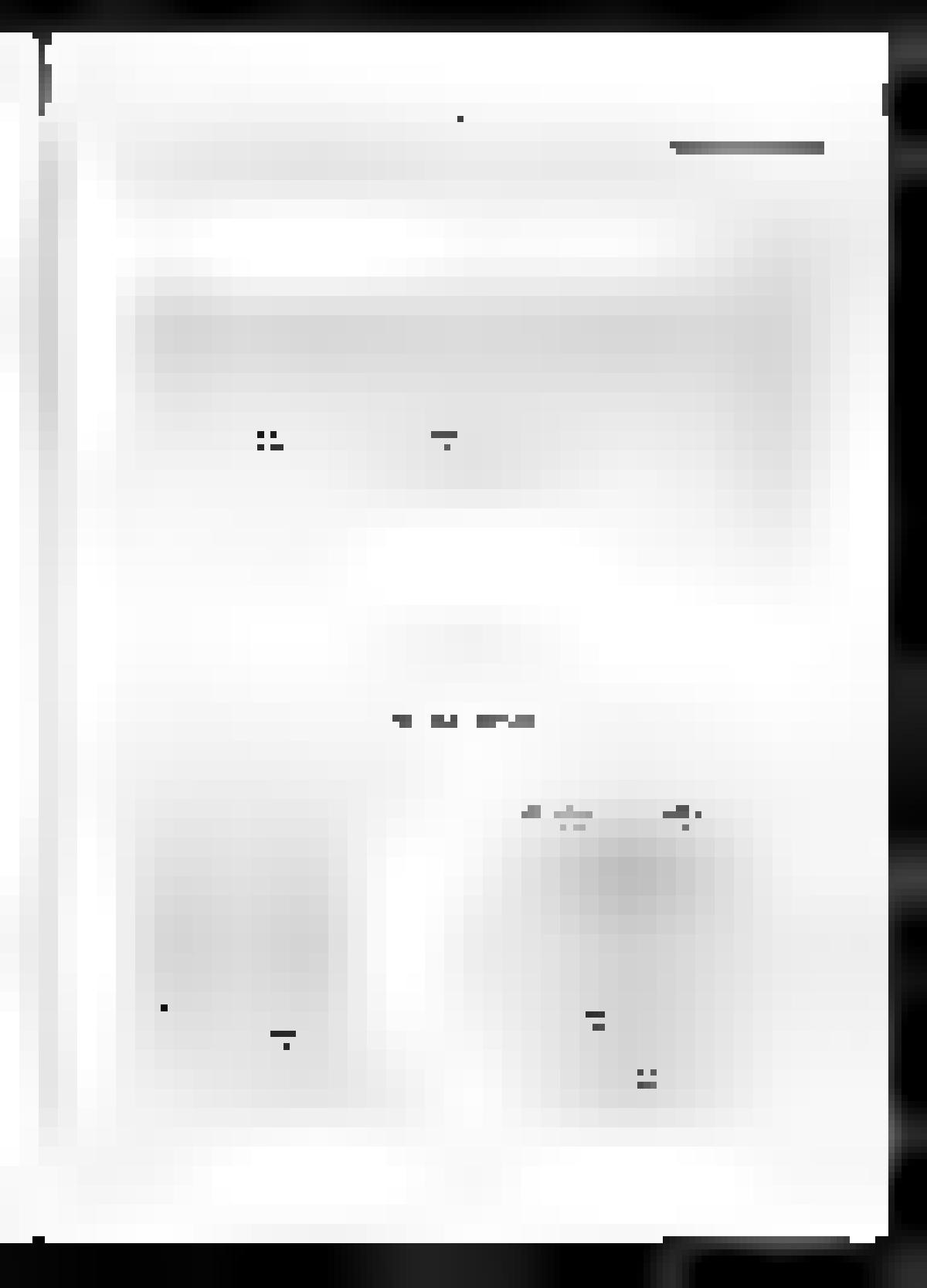

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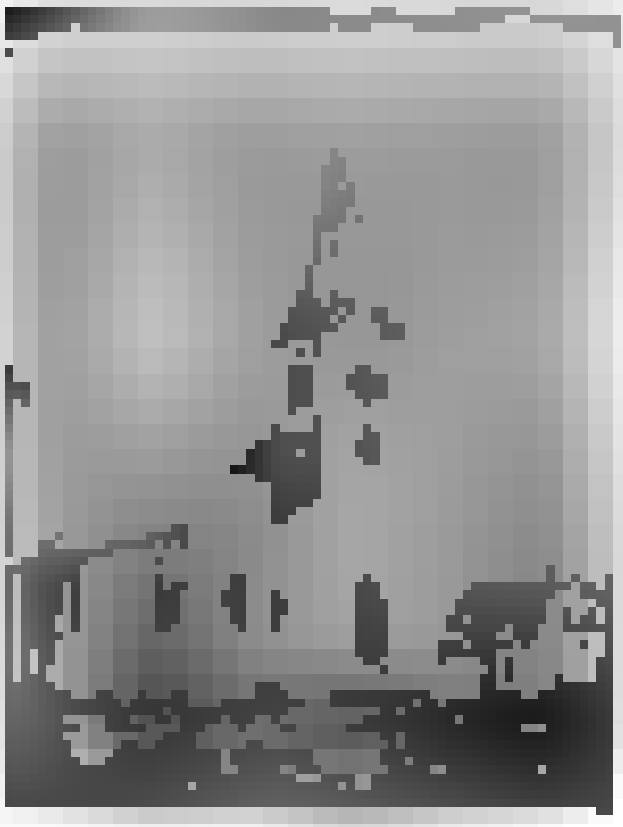

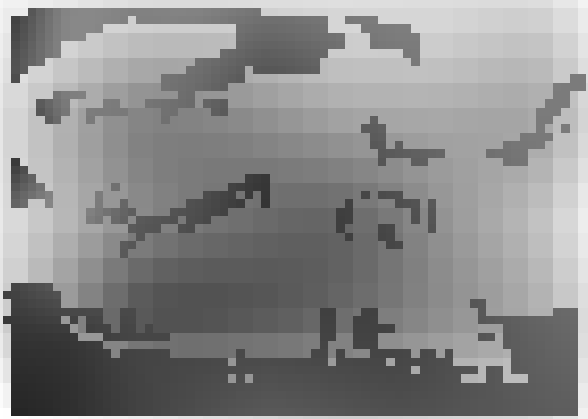

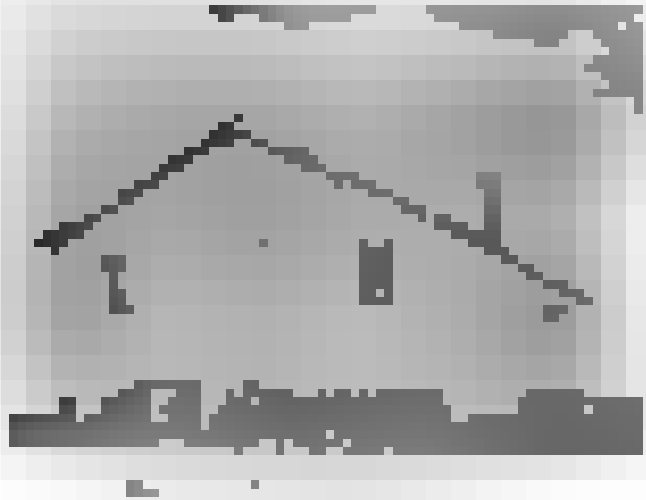

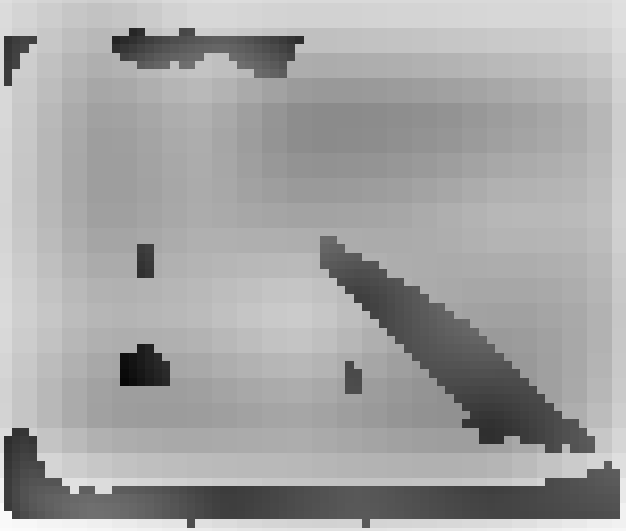

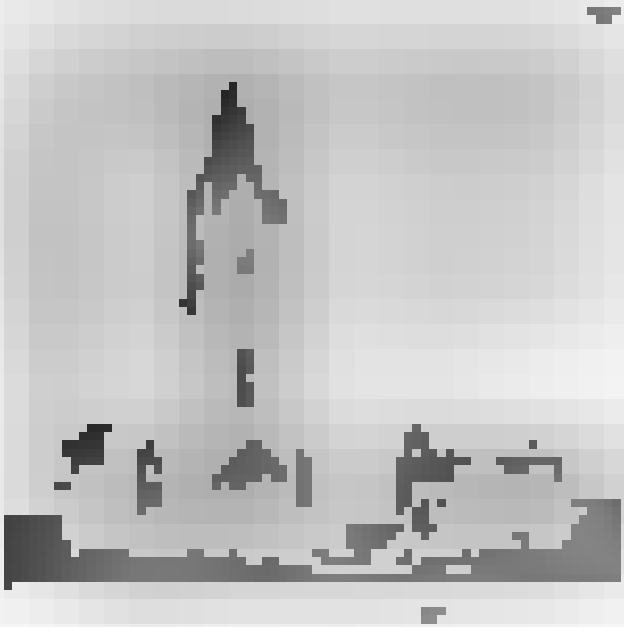

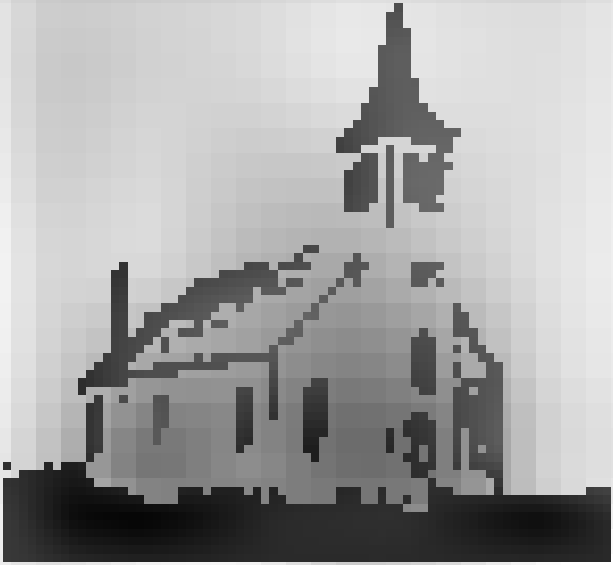

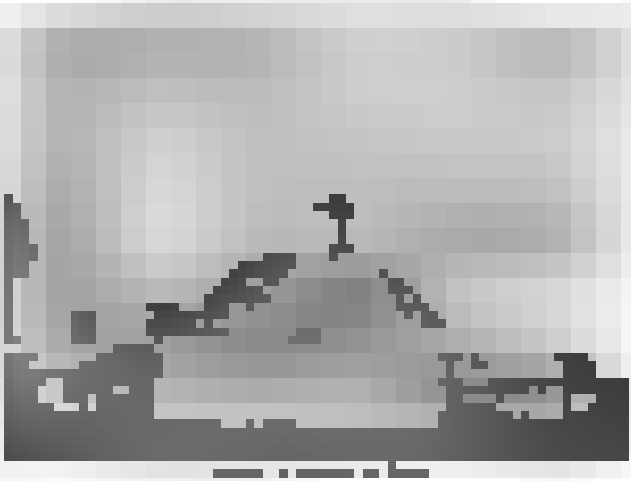

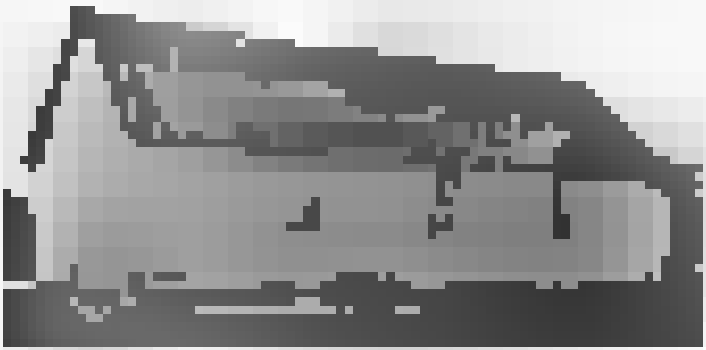

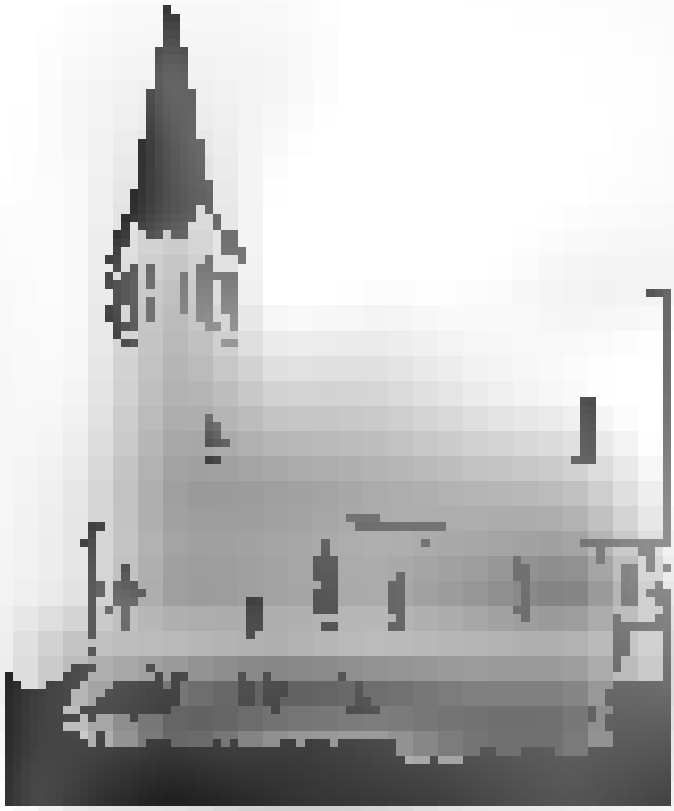

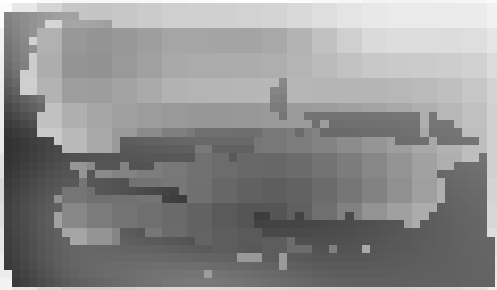

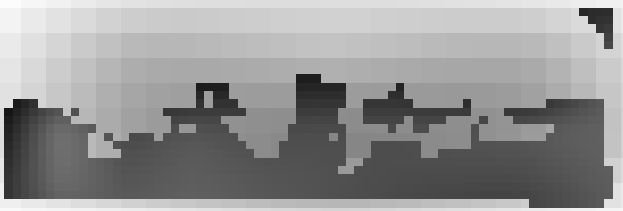

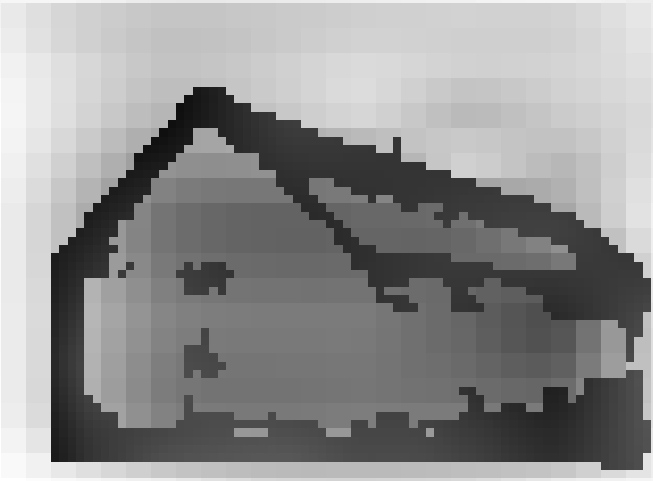

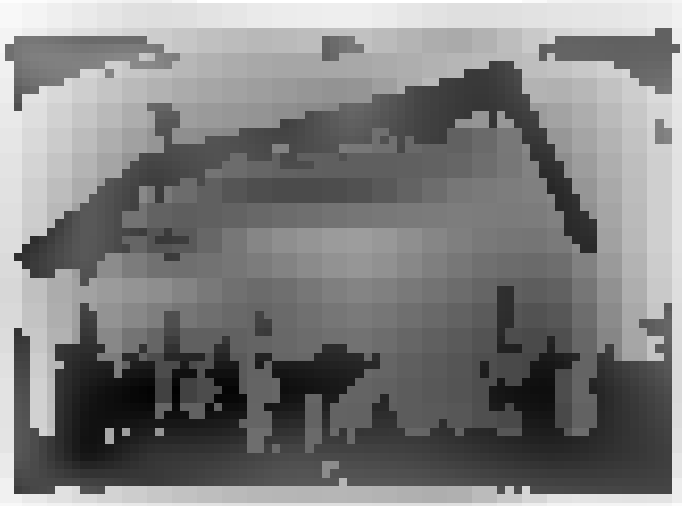

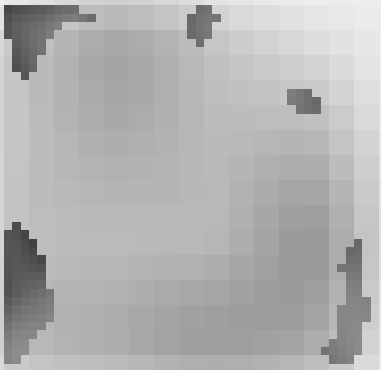

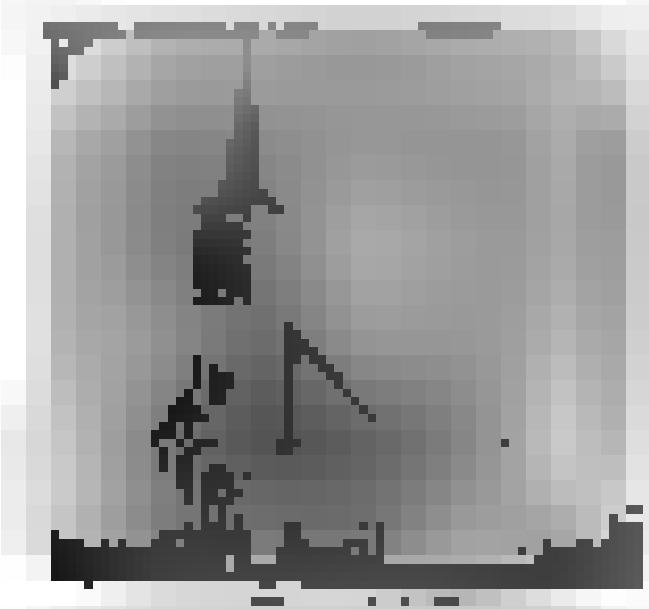

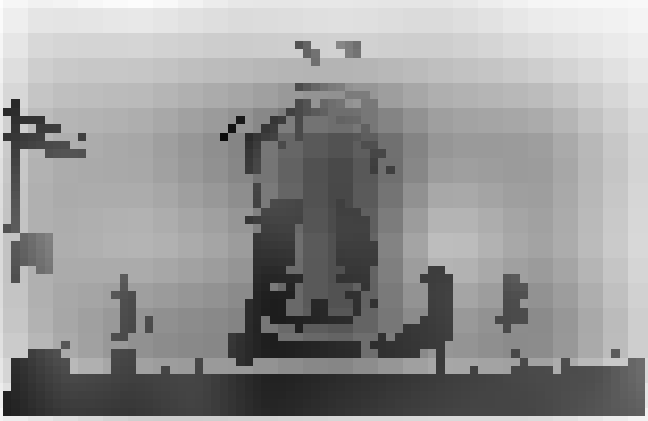

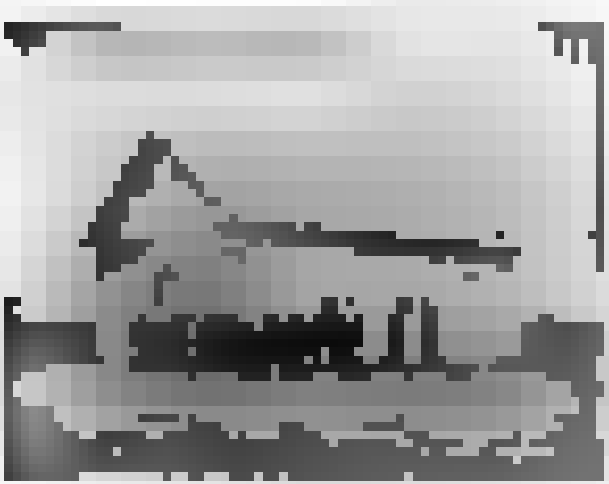

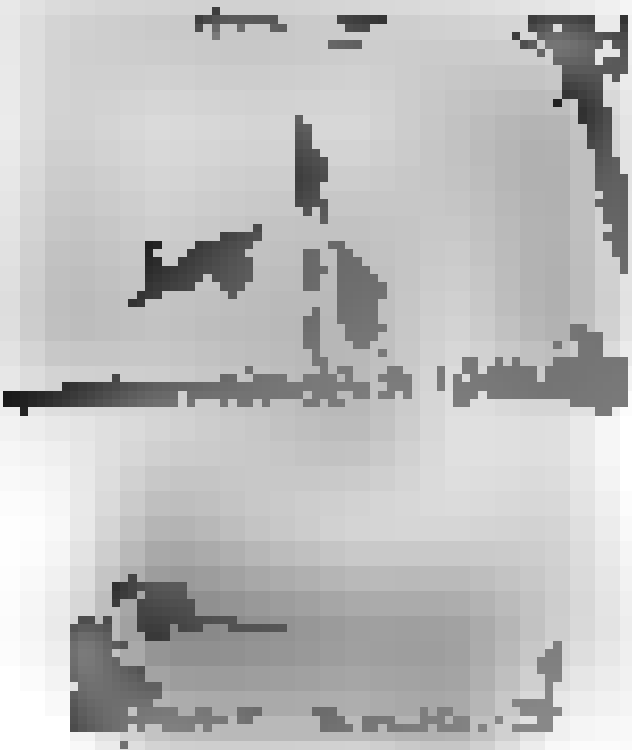

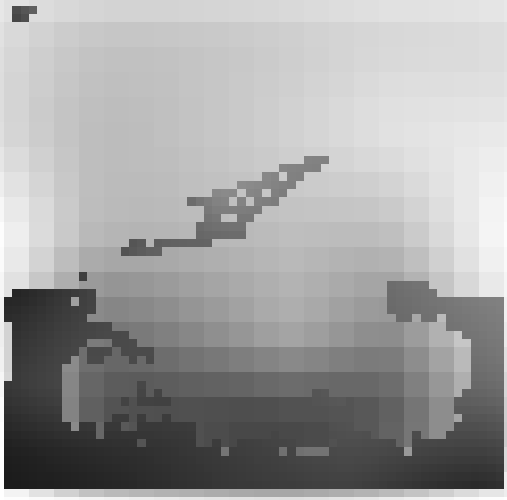

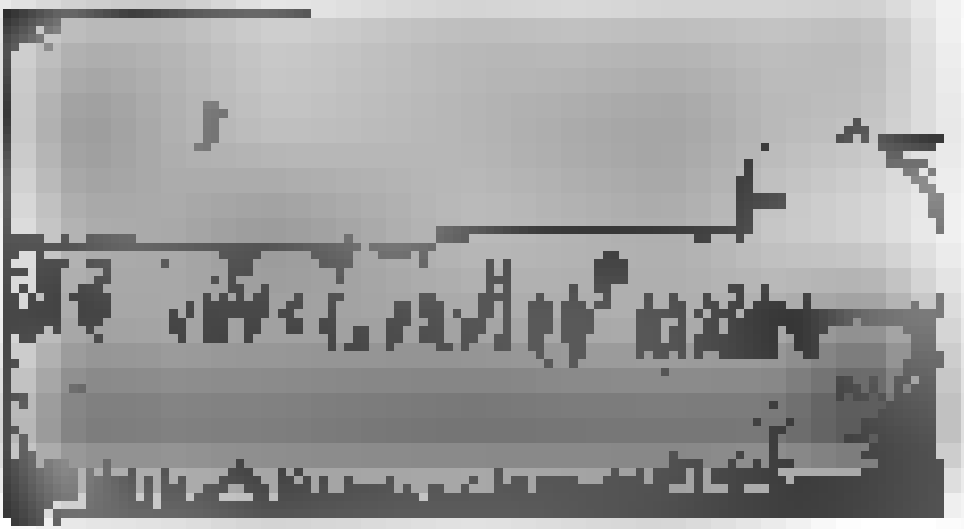

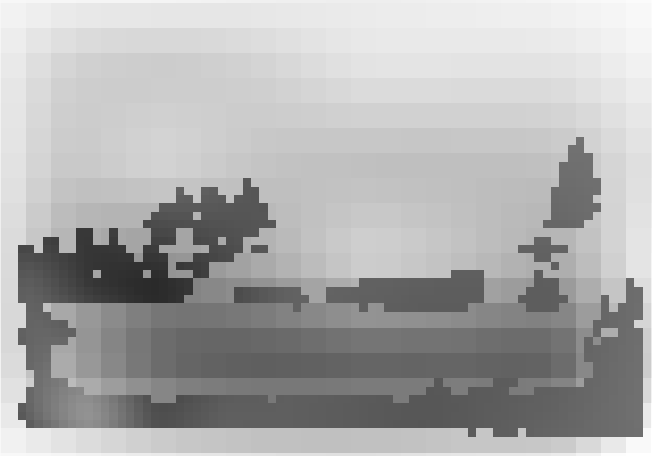

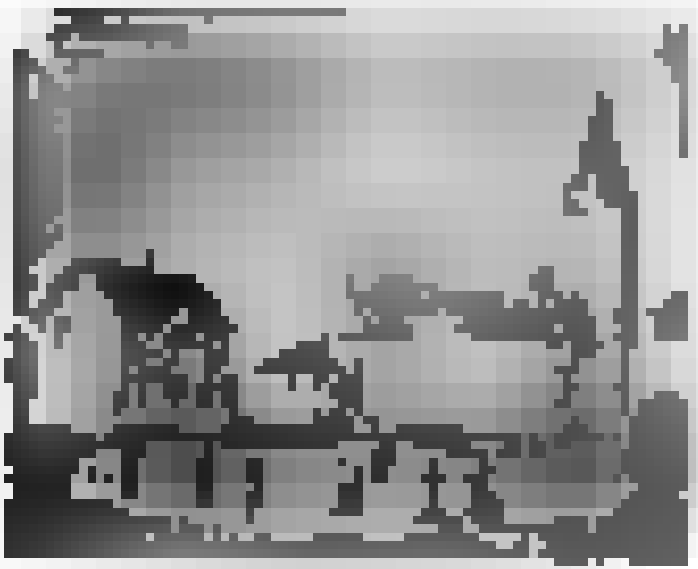

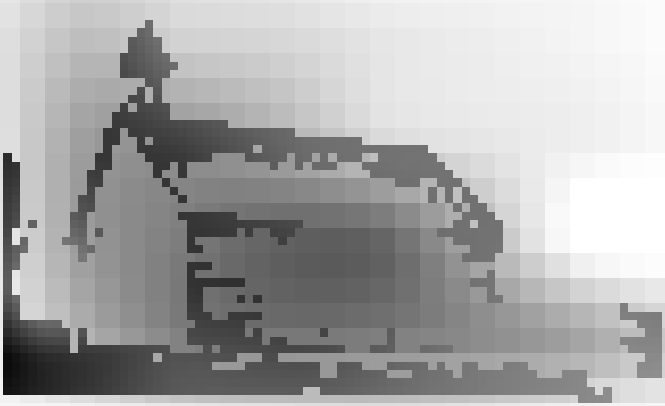

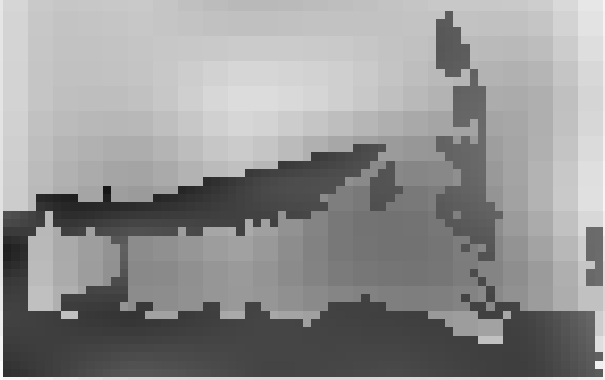

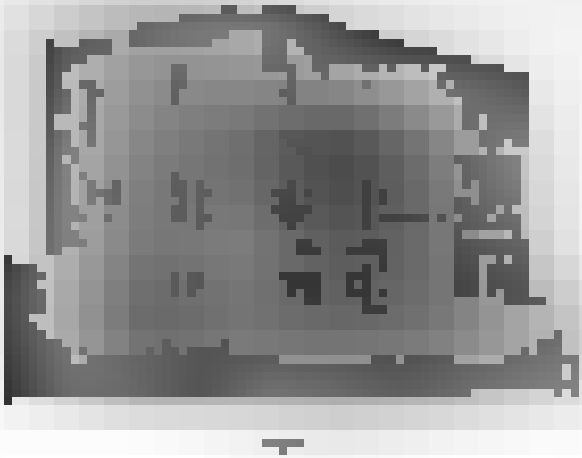

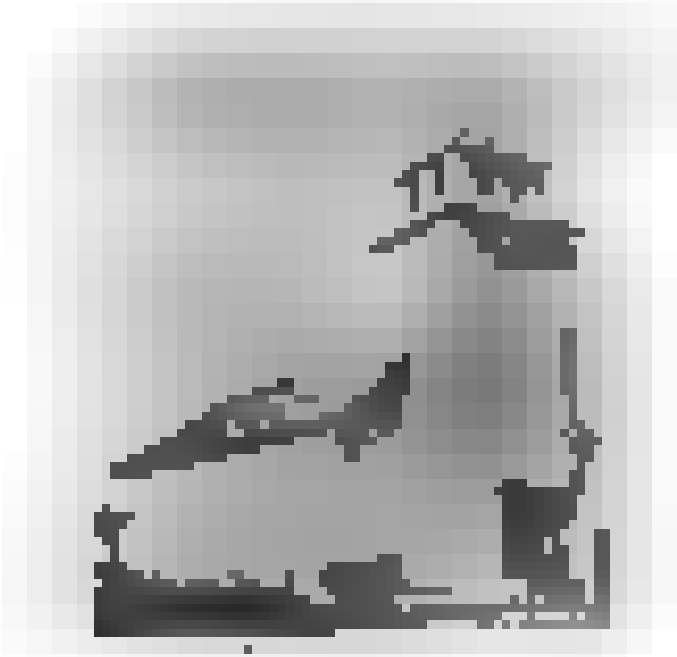

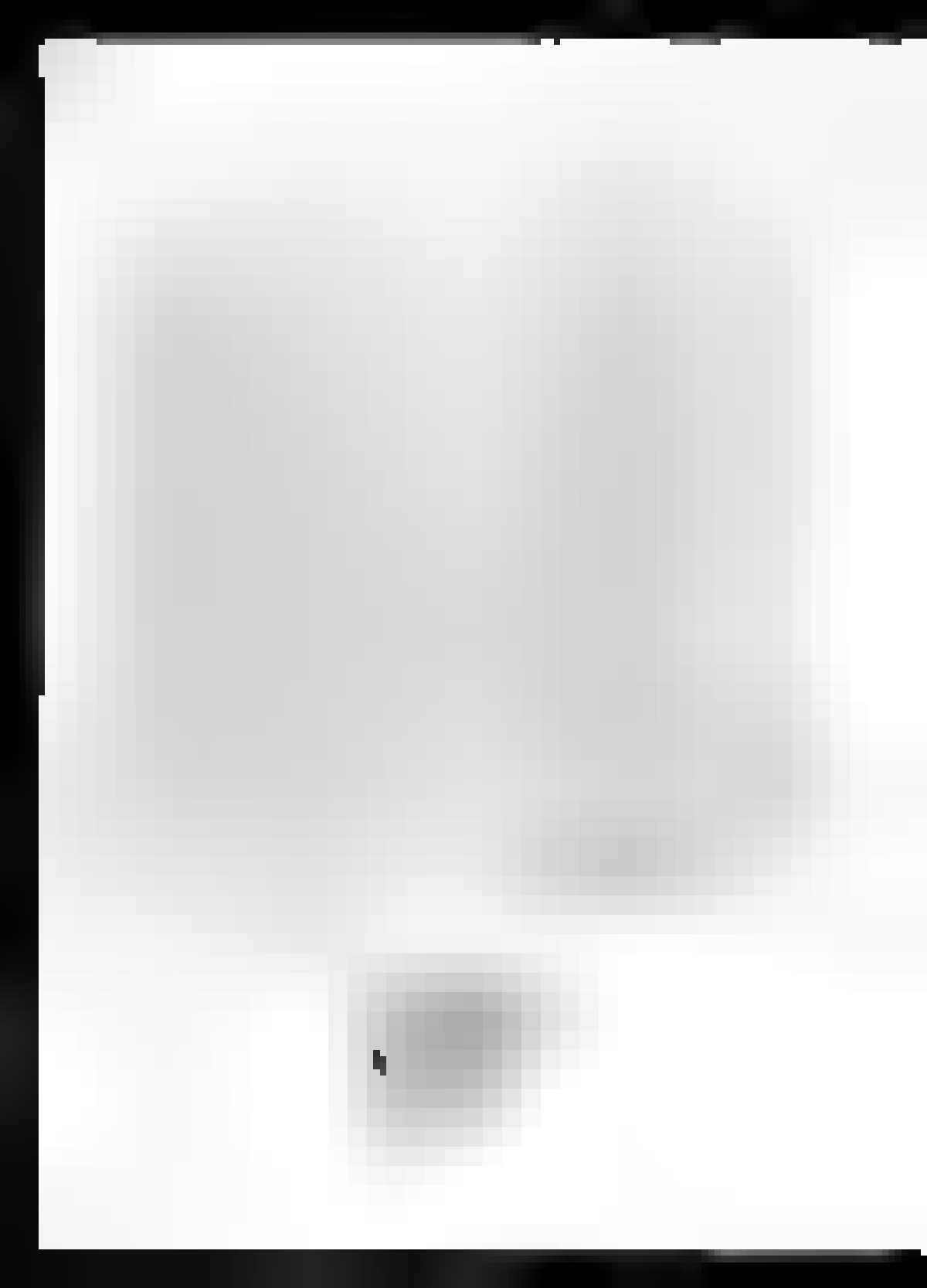

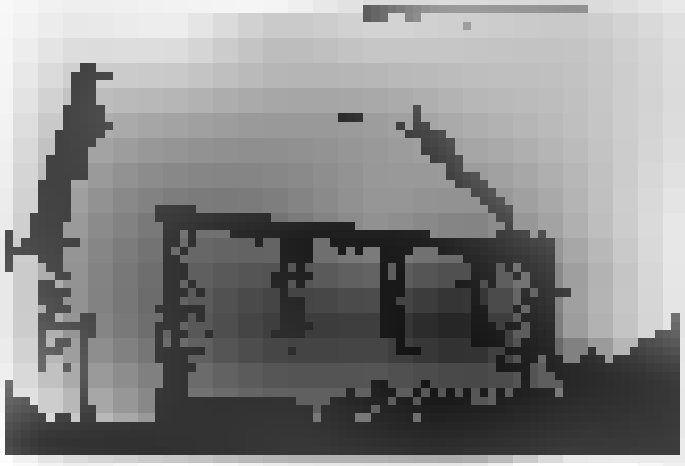

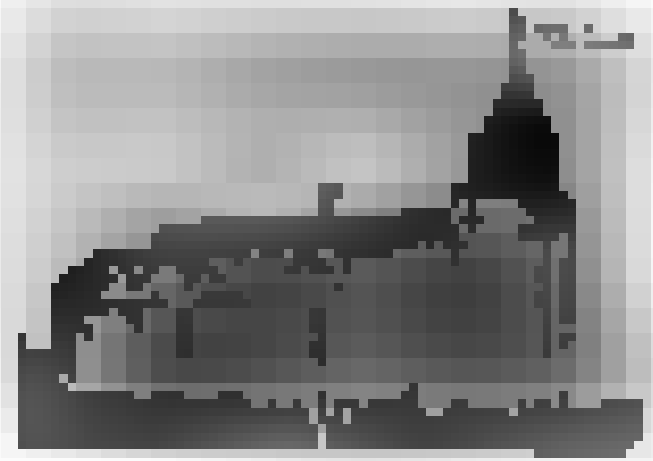

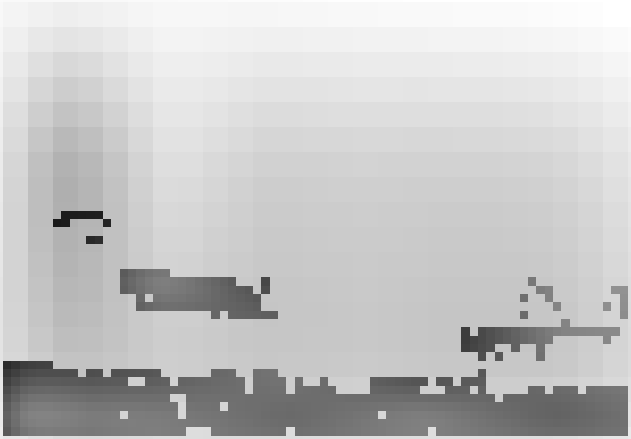

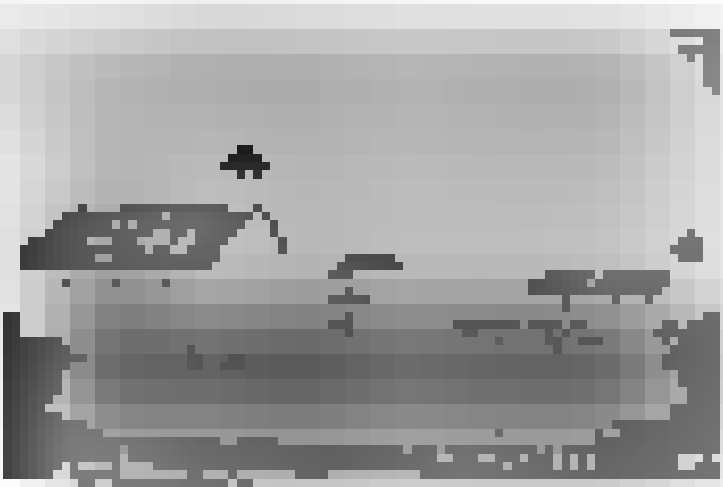

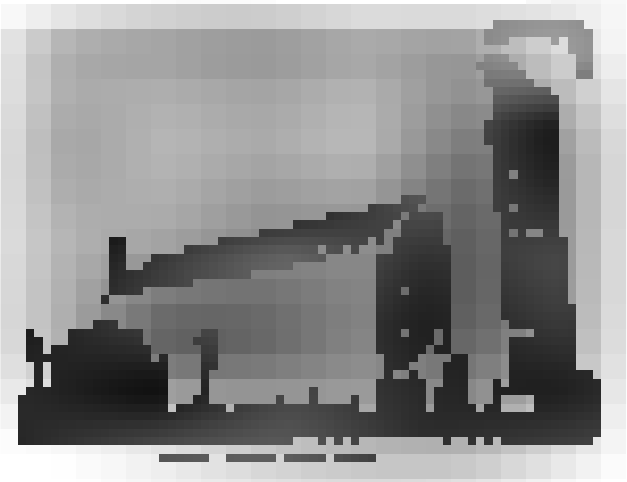

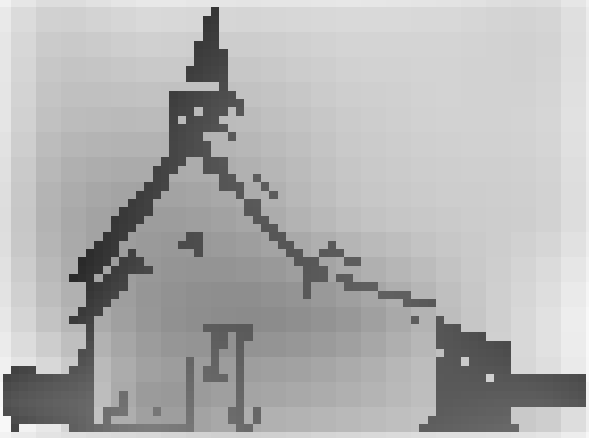

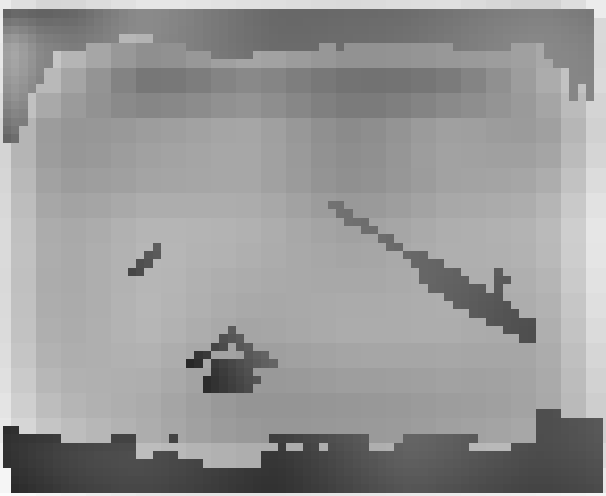

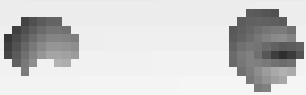

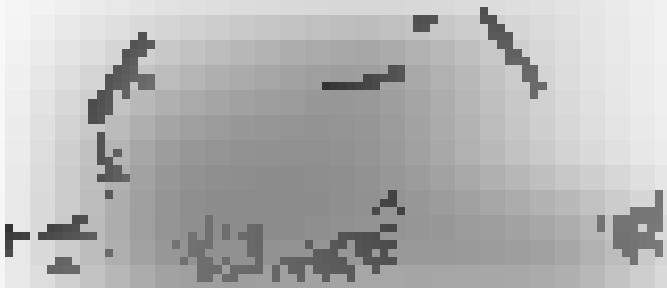

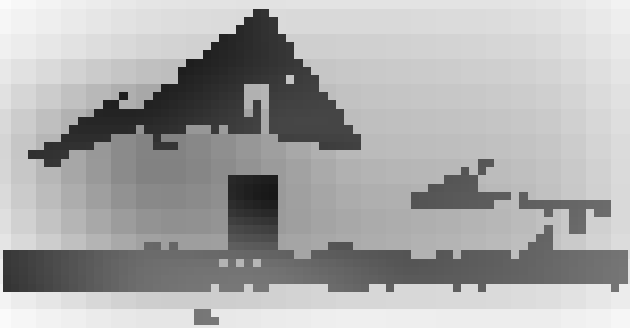

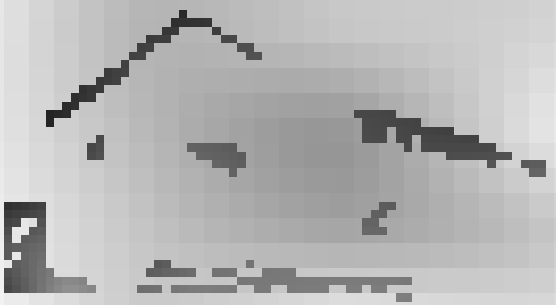

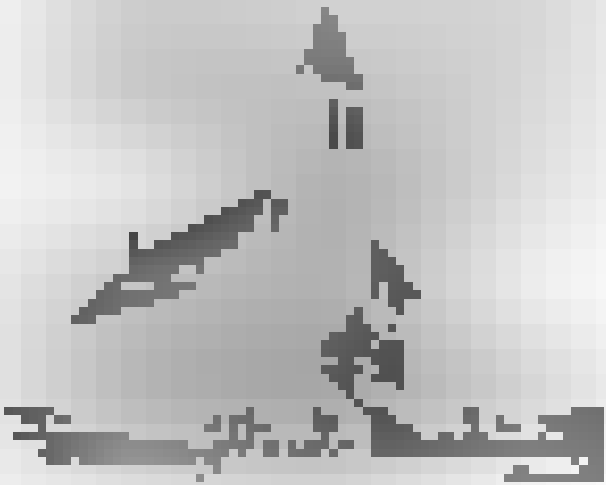

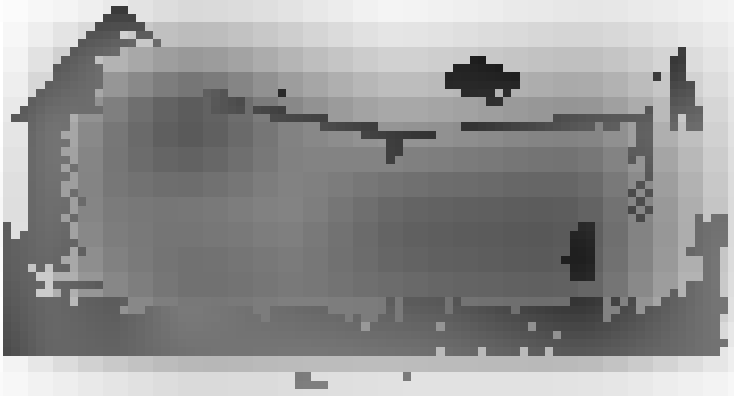

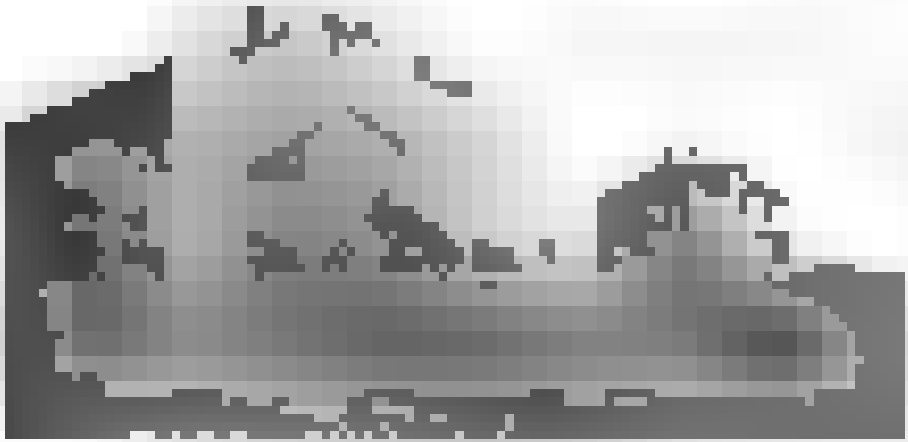

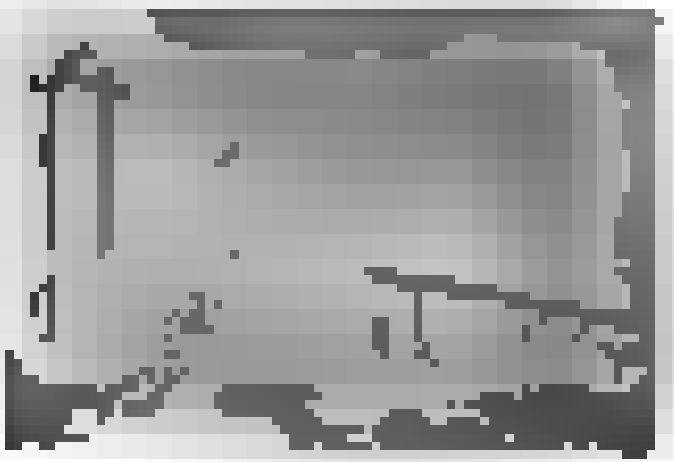

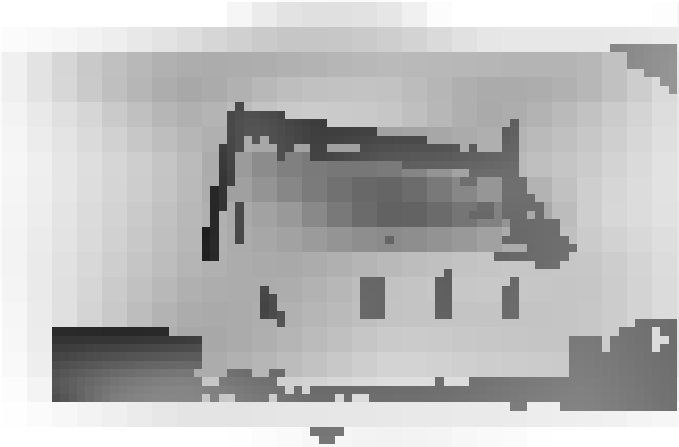

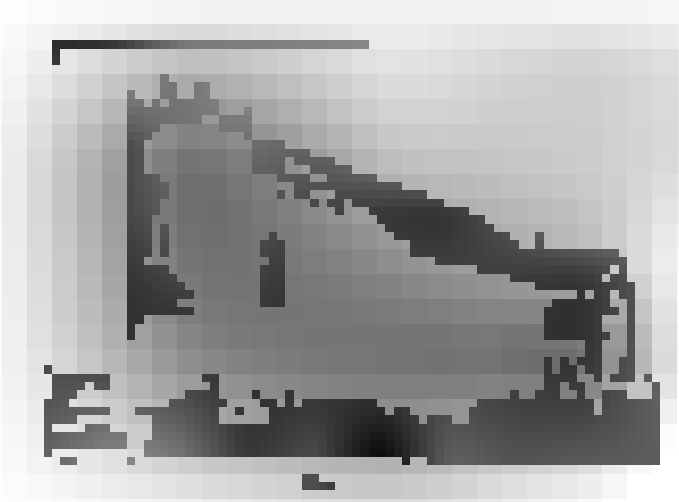

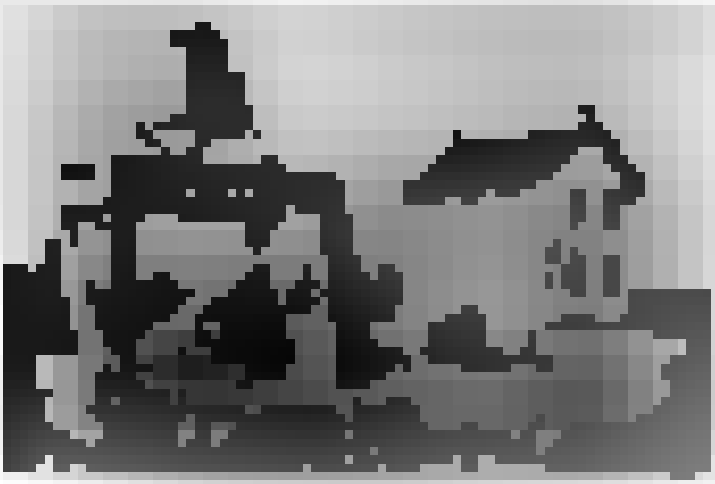

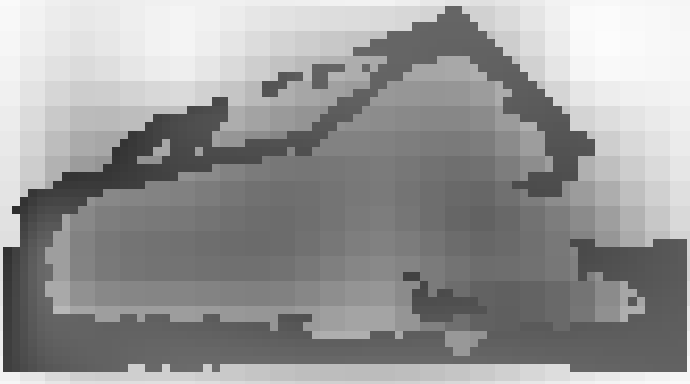

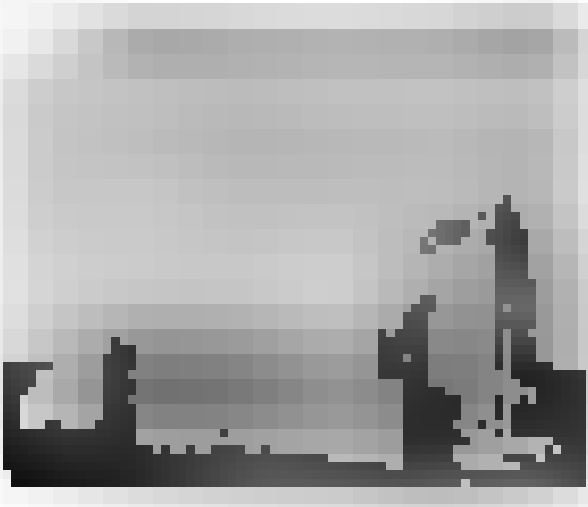

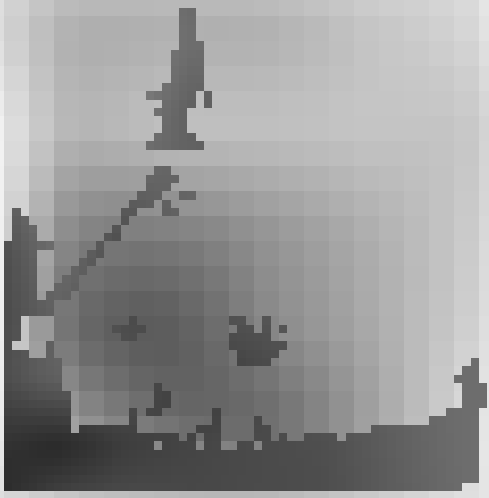

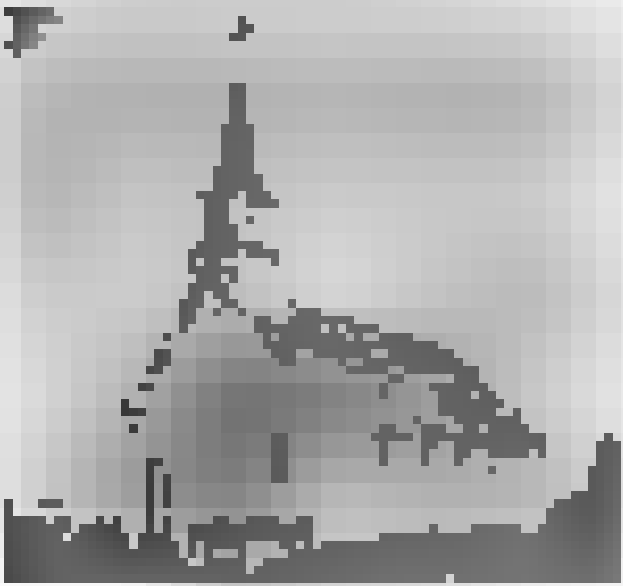

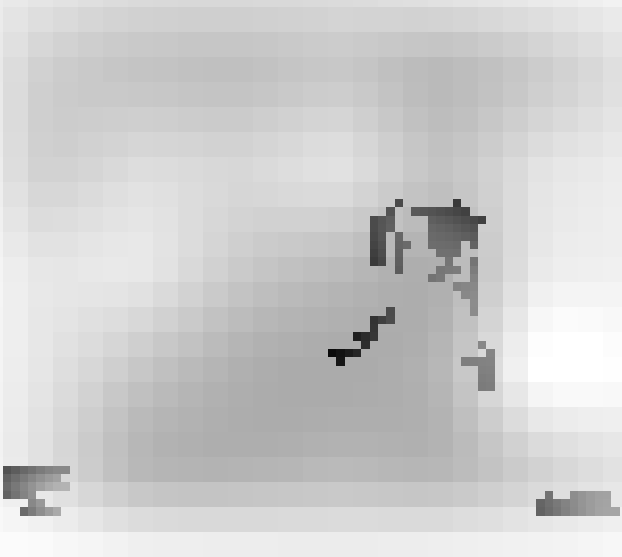

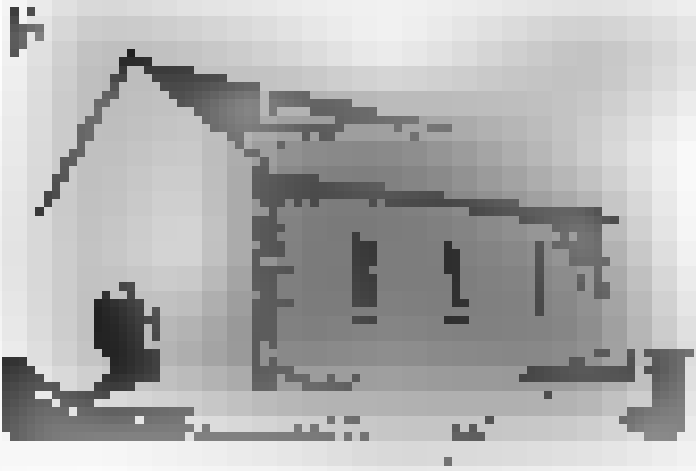

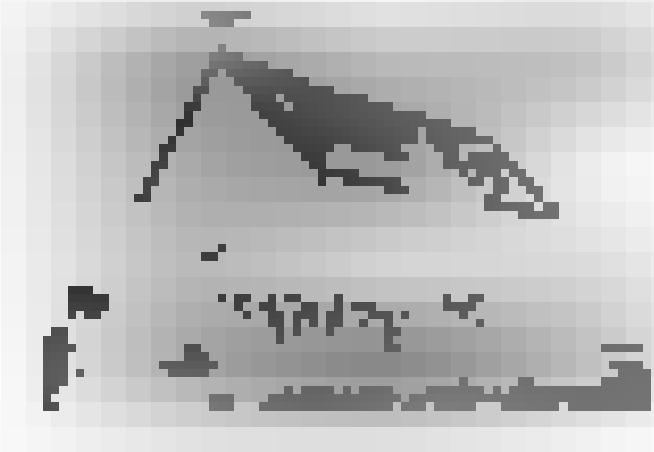

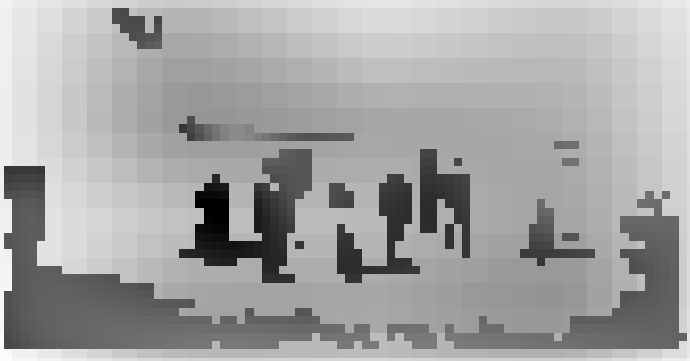

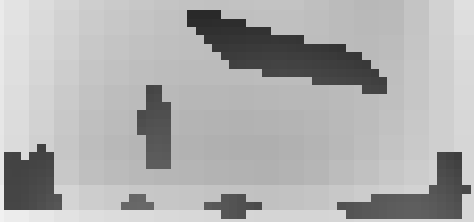

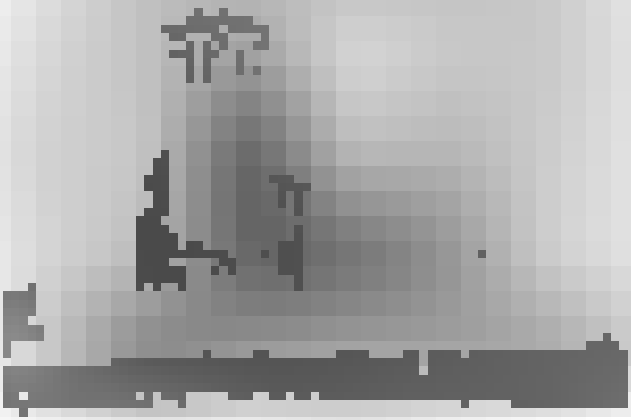

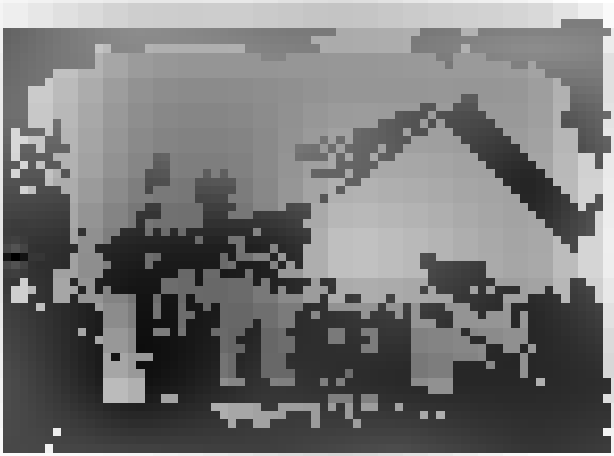

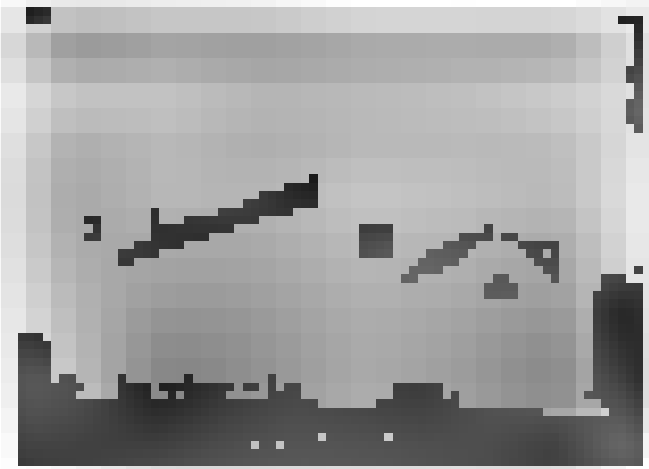

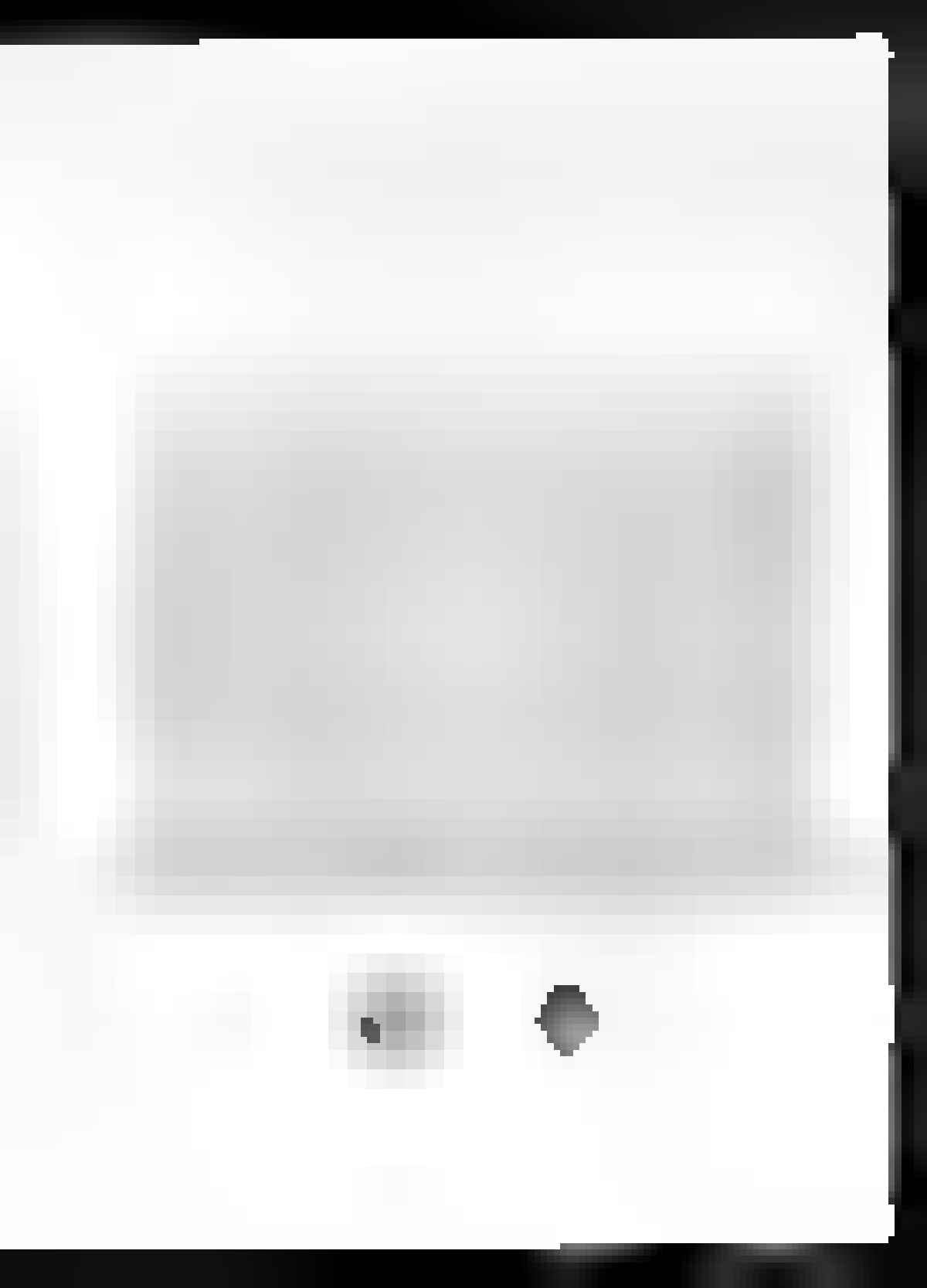

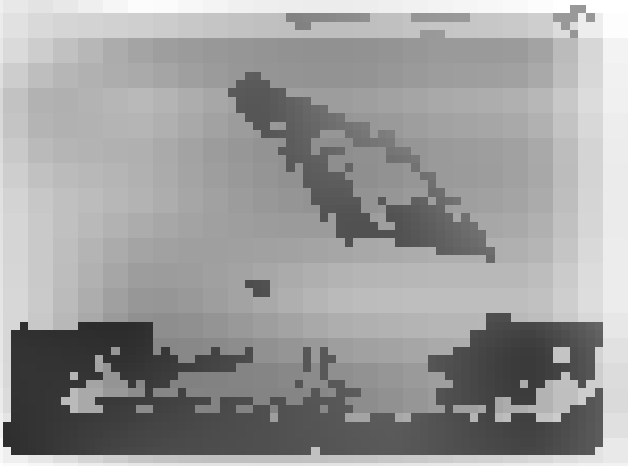

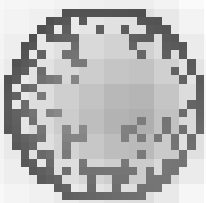

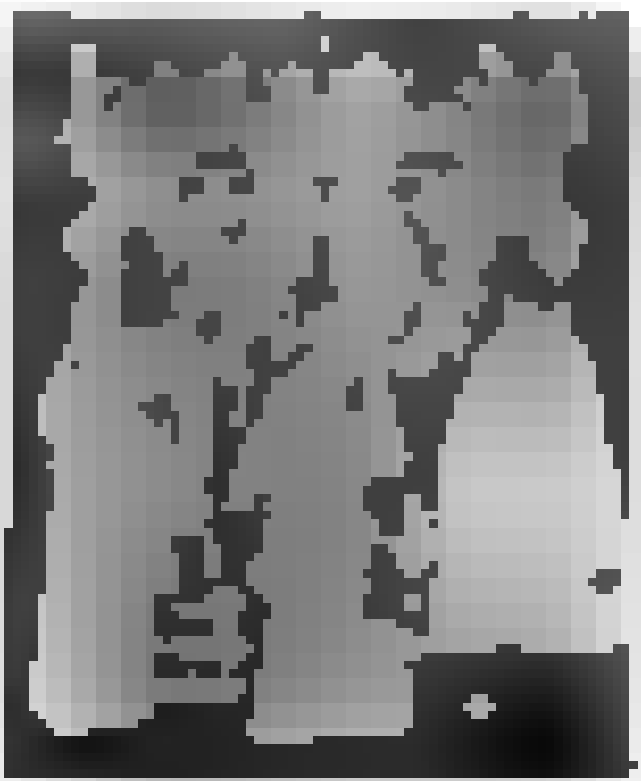

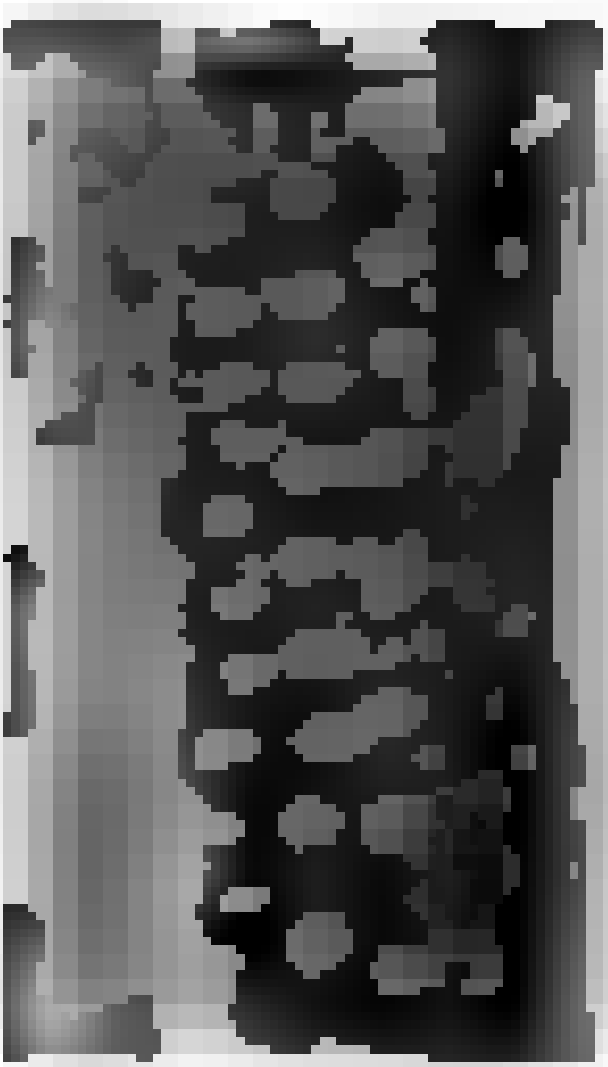
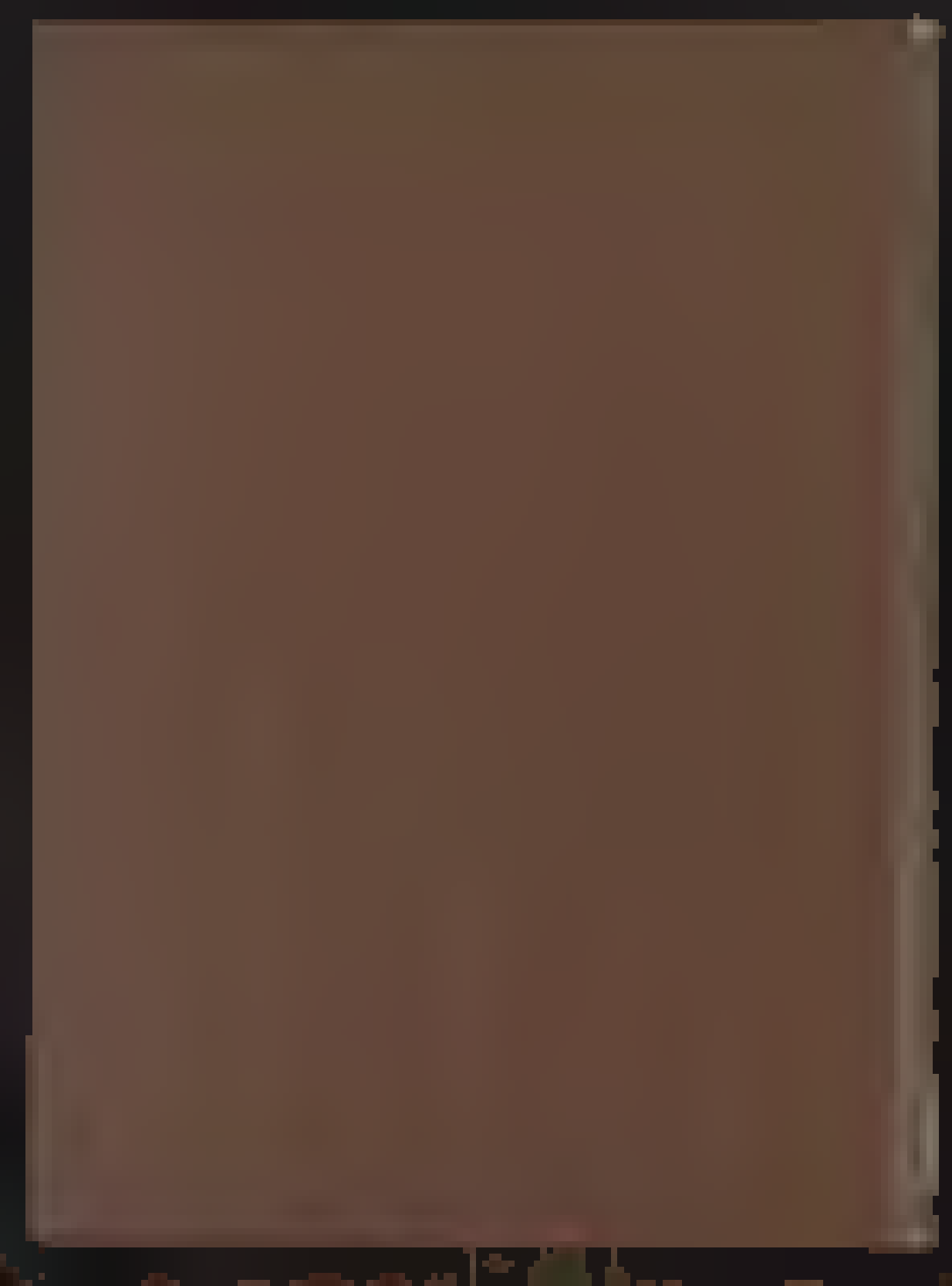
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